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Werner Tillinger wins the title.
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Laying Oscar (bets)
Cruising through the
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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 11 • 18 March 1999

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Dixon Osburn

'Don't Ask' gets worse

by Bob Roebr

Anti-gay harassment in the U.S. military is flourishing under the policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT), according to a new report released Monday, March 15. Incidents are up 42 percent from two years ago, says the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) in its report, entitled "Conduct Unbecoming."

The organization released its fifth annual report on the failure of that policy at a news conference in Washington.

"Lesbian, gay, and bisexual service members report that they face daily threats to their physical safety and well-being — not from enemies, but from Uncle Sam," said Dixon Osburn, SLDN's co-executive director. "The policy has sentenced gays to either hiding under a blanket of anxiety and

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CAPE's Seth Watkins leads about 150 marchers at a vigil for slain Alabama gay man Billy Jack Gaither Saturday in the Castro.

Gaither vigil powerful, but attendance is low

by Mark Norby

Saturday evening, March 13 was a bit warmer than in recent weeks, and there wasn't a drop of rain that fell during the three-hour San Francisco vigil for Billy Jack Gaither, the 39-year-old gay man tortured and killed in Sylacauga, Alabama last month. But the turnout was disappointing, especially in light of the hideous nature of the killing and in light of the fact that his murder occurred just four months after the murder of Matthew Shepard.

The Gaither vigil drew about 150 marchers, considerably less than the Shepard

vigil which drew over 1,000 marchers, both on the evening following his death as well as on the night of the official vigil, organized by activists and Community United Against Violence (CUAV). CUAV was a lot less visible at Saturday's event and did not represent itself in the same manner as at the Shepard vigil. Instead, a lone representative from the agency handed out CUAV-engraved whistles to the marchers as a tool of protection in the event of crime against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. "Blow the whistle if you are attacked," was CUAV's message.

Gaither's vigil was single-handedly organized by Seth Watkins of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE), a

group focused on LGBT issues. Watkins alerted local news organizations and the most visible members of San Francisco's activist community that the vigil would start at Dolores Park and proceed up 16th Street, right into the busy intersection at Market and Noe streets, and stop at Harvey Milk Plaza at Castro and Market streets.

"Just don't stand there and look pretty," shouted one marcher at a couple of primped young men who stood idle and looked on at the street corner at the intersection of 16th, Market, and Noe streets. "You can look pretty and march at the same time," said the angry marcher.

As the group held candles and followed

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Lockyer addresses gay/lesbian lawyers, supports medical pot

by Vicky Kolakowski

When San Francisco Assemblywoman Carole Migden introduced state Attorney General Bill Lockyer to about 800 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) attorneys and friends at the 19th annual dinner of Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) Thursday, March 11, she exuberantly highlighted his public commitment to developing a workable system for the use of medical marijuana.

"I have a task force of people from all perspectives included," Lockyer told the Bay Area Reporter in an interview after his speech. "I am hoping that they will recommend some changes in the initiative to make it easier to defend with the feds."

Lockyer told the B.A.R. that medical marijuana proposals adopted elsewhere "learned from our mistakes" in the language of Proposition 215, which state voters approved in 1996. He was optimistic that the task force would "eliminate gaps," but stressed that the

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California Attorney General Bill Lockyer at the annual BALIF dinner.

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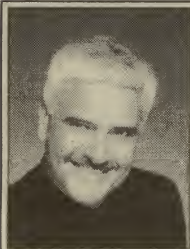
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NCLR's Kendell named a California Legislature 'Woman of the Year'

by Vicky Kolakowski

California state Senator Jackie Speier (D-San Francisco/San Mateo) named National Center for Lesbian Rights Executive Director Kate Kendell as a California Legislature "Woman of the Year." Each member of the Legislature selects one woman annually to receive the award. This year's recipients were recognized at a legislative session held Monday, March 15 in Sacramento.

Speier chose Kendell based upon her long-standing advocacy on behalf of lesbian and gay families.

"Kate Kendell is one of the nation's most prominent advocates," Speier said in her announcement of the selection. "As an attorney, she has worked on historic litigation which has been instrumental in securing a place on the legal map for families who are often rendered invisible by courts across the nation."

"To be recognized by Senator Speier for this tremendous honor is overwhelming," Kendell said. "I have the great privilege of doing work I love in a community of very courageous and proud families, and I share this award with them."

"I am keenly aware of the responsibility that accompanies this acknowledgment and know that I stand in remarkable company with many accomplished and creative women," she added.

Kendell is the second out lesbian to receive the award. Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Sheila Kuehl



Kate Kendell

received the award in 1991, prior to entering the Legislature.

Kendell joined NCLR as their legal director in 1994 and became

executive director in 1996. She has been an adjunct professor at Hastings College of Law and the University of California at Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall) teaching sexual orientation and the law. She also teaches legal ethics at New College School of Law.

Speier was elected in 1998 to the state Senate seat formerly held by Quentin Kopp, who retired due to term limits. Speier served in the state Assembly from 1986 to 1996. She has a long history as a vocal advocate for women's, children's and consumer's rights, and has been a leader in raising funds and awareness for breast cancer and AIDS prevention and treatment. ▼

East Bay gay center hires first executive director

by Cynthia Laird

The Rainbow Community Center (RCC) in Contra Costa County has hired its first executive director, Leslie Addison, who started full time earlier this month at the agency that serves the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community in an area where the suburbs are plentiful but places for queers to hang out are somewhat limited.

RCC's board of directors and Addison invite interested members of the community to attend a town hall meeting this Wednesday, March 24 at the center in Pleasant Hill. While the openly lesbian Addison has been meeting with volunteers and others who frequent the center, the town hall meeting is a chance for people to meet her and discuss their vision of what the center should be for the community.

"We're sort of in the pre-growth phase," Addison told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "The town hall meeting will give me a chance to talk about my vision and plan and meet with people and hear their visions." Since starting the job, Addison has also met with other organizations in Contra Costa County in an effort to get the word out about RCC.

Addison, who has worked at LGBT and HIV/AIDS nonprofits in the Bay Area for the past several years, said her direct experiences have been an asset at RCC, where she's the only paid staff person right now. Most recently, Addison worked at Eden Information and Referral, where she was project supervisor for the AIDS housing and information project. Prior to that, Addison worked at Community United Against Violence (CUAV) and the Pacific Center for Human Growth. She holds a bachelor's degree in history and classics, a law degree, and master's degrees in divinity and theology.

One of the things Addison is doing is compiling information so that when someone calls RCC,



Leslie Addison

they can be given referrals to appropriate agencies or made aware of things such as game nights, parenting group nights, and various support groups for men, women, transgenders, and youth.

The center has approximately 200 members and a mailing list of about 900 people, Addison added. Funding for RCC's annual budget of \$132,000 comes primarily from grants and memberships. An annual fundraiser takes place in June, she said. Addison's annual salary is \$35,000 and she's responsible for planning, administration, and management of RCC's programs.

Addison said the agency has a "good, stable funding base and a dedicated board." A board committee interviewed candidates for the new position and Addison was hired by the full board.

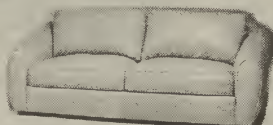
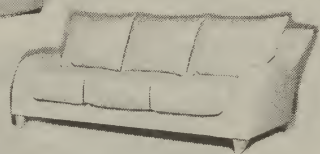
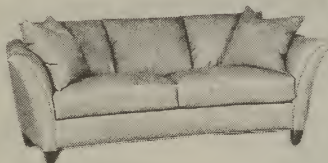
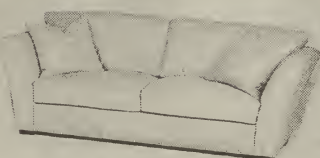
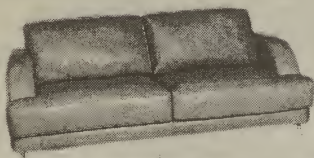
"I think it's really exciting for a LGBT organization to have a full time staff person," Addison said, explaining that the center's hours will soon be expanded. Prior to the board's hiring Addison, the center was staffed with volunteers; they continue to provide invaluable help to Addison.

RCC provides social activities and support for the LGBT community in Contra Costa County. "There's very little LGBT-oriented activities," she noted. "The center serves mostly as a social center." ▼

The town hall meeting starts at 7 p.m. at RCC, 2637 Pleasant Hill Road. For more info, call (925) 210-0563.

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Correction

The caption accompanying the photo of Daddy's owner Philip Turner and former International Mr. Leather Jeff Tucker at an East Bay benefit that appeared on page 18 of the March 4 Bay Area Reporter contained inaccurate information. The event, Beauty's Revenge, was sponsored by the Alameda County Leather Corps, it was held at the Rainbow Room in Hayward, and \$2,638 was raised to benefit the Women's Cancer Resource Center in Berkeley. We apologize for the errors. ▼

Hall of Fame inductee



East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club President Brenda Crawford, left, is congratulated by KTVU's Faith Fancher after she was inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame Saturday, March 13. Crawford was nominated in the community service category and is the first out lesbian to be honored with the award.

Gay man awarded \$163,000 by SF jury

by Dennis Conkin

A San Francisco Superior Court jury awarded a gay man with HIV \$163,000 in damages on Wednesday March 10, after finding that a University of California San Francisco (UCSF) orthopedic surgeon was medically negligent in refusing to operate on him because he had a low T-cell count.

The jury found Dr. Franklin Hoaglund had breached appropriate standards of care and committed malpractice by his 1997 refusal to surgically replace Steve Iacovino's necrotic shoulder and instead told the gay man to "hope for a cure" for his illness.

The jury rejected Iacovino's charge that Hoaglund, now retired, had intentionally violated AIDS discrimination provisions of the American with Disabilities Act and state civil rights protections.

Hoaglund had claimed that Iacovino was at greater risk of post-operative infection because of his low T-cell count, a claim dismissed by a trio of defense medical experts from around the country who testified that there was no rational medical basis for Hoaglund's decision.

Instead, the experts including New York Hospital's Dr. Michael Giordano, an infectious disease expert, testified during the trial that Hoaglund's justification was not medically supported and that an HIV patient's low T-cell count was absolutely not a major factor in determining a patient's post-operative surgical risk.

The expert testimony was greeted with open hostility during cross examination by a University of California system attorney defending Hoaglund, a 1956 graduate of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, against the civil claims.

But, according to Iacovino's attorney Gary Cloutier, the jury verdict, based on a preponderance of evidence, established that Hoaglund's refusal to operate had no medical basis.

Hoaglund had referred Iacovino to the university's physical therapy unit, despite the gay man's desire for the procedure.

Iacovino was in great physical pain before the surgery and had extremely limited range of motion and required assistance with dressing and bathing because of the condition, which causes bone

death to the head of the humerus bone in the shoulder from a lack of blood supply.

Iacovino successfully underwent shoulder replacement surgery four months later in Hawaii and told the *Bay Area Reporter* that his HIV and T-cell status posed no problem for his new orthopedist, who even unwrapped bandages from his well-lead surgical wounds without any protections.

At a press conference announcing the jury's award for emotional distress, Iacovino also noted that he had several surgeries at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) prior to Hoaglund's refusal to operate, including hernia repairs and a fistulectomy and that his HIV status and T-cell count posed "no problem" for SFGH physicians. ▼

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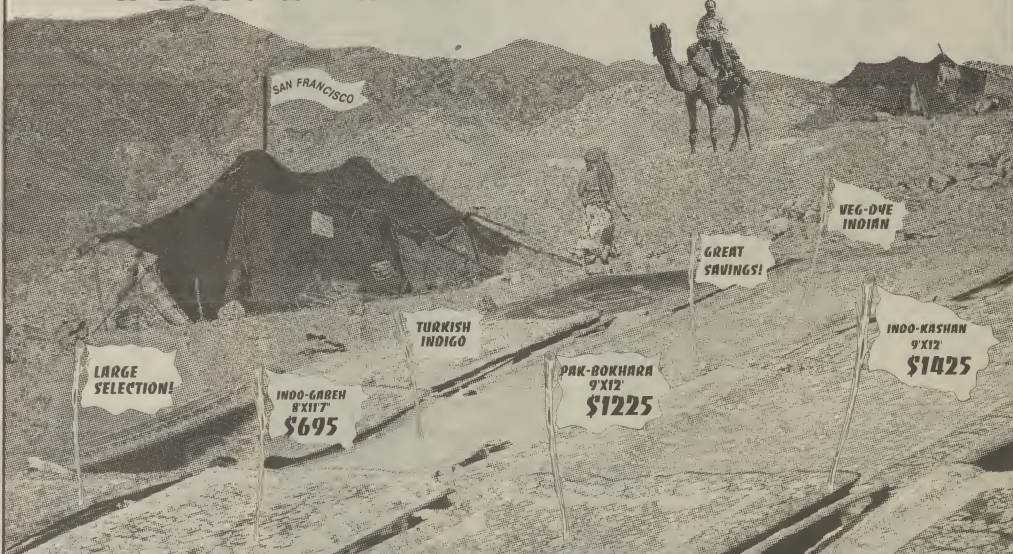


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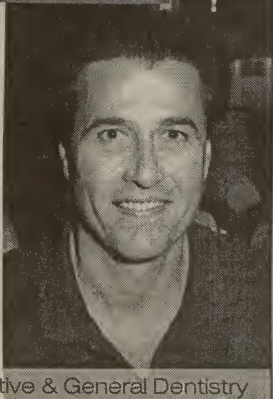
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Catholics blast supes for allowing party

by Mark Mardon

An editorial and a guest commentary appearing in *Catholic San Francisco*, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco's official newspaper, this week blasted the Board of Supervisors for unanimously voting on March 1 to permit the closing of one block of Castro Street on Easter Sunday to allow the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to stage their 20th anniversary celebration, which the sisters have dubbed "Easter 1999: Two Decades of Decadence."

"The action is comparable to allowing a group of neo-Nazis to close a city street for a celebration on the Jewish Feast of Passover," the editorial opined. It insisted the supervisors "acted with extraordinary insensitivity to people of all faiths" by permitting the sisters to hold their party.

Board President Tom Ammi-ano told the *Bay Area Reporter* that his office "has been bombarded by orchestrated hostile calls and e-mails about the sisters and the closing off of the street." He defended the board's decision, and said he stands by his vote.

"I find it outrageous they would compare the sisters with neo-Nazis," said Ammi-ano. "The sisters are not violent people, and have done any number of good works." He said the complaints echoed the right wing's efforts to derail the nomination of Jim

Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg by blasting him for appearing at events at which the sisters were present.

In the *Catholic San Francisco* guest commentary, Wade C. Hughan, vice chairman of Catholics for Truth and Justice, contended the sisters "attempt to ridicule both the profound solemnity of the Church's celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord and the dignity of the life and work of Catholic religious women."

Yet as religion commentator Kevin Starr first pointed out in the *San Francisco Examiner* in October 1981, when criticism of the sisters was still hot news, the sisters are "a totally understandable phenomenon both from the point of view of the ancient art of religious parody and from the perspective of guerrilla theater, a venerable genre of social activism."

The sisters are not without critics in the queer community. Allan Finn, a self-described "Jewish bisexual conservative activist," told the *B.A.R.* that by staging their event on Easter Sunday, the sisters would be fostering the kind of hostility in straight, religious America that contributed to the recent brutal killings of Matthew Shepard and Billy Jack Gaither.

"You'd think [the sisters] could move it to another day instead of mocking people," said Finn.

For now, at least, plans for the sisters' anniversary event remain unchanged. According to Sister MaryMae Himm, the Castro Street party will last from noon to 5 p.m. on Easter Sunday, April 4. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Eureka Valley Teen Program and Harvey Milk Institute's Queer Youth Education Program. ▼

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Labor commissioner supports gay teacher

by Mark Norby

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund announced Tuesday, March 9 that the California labor commissioner ordered Rio Bravo-Greeley Union School District in Bakersfield to stop removing eighth grade students from a science class because the teacher is gay. The commissioner ruled that teachers and officials working in the school district were in violation of state law when 15 students were physically removed from the classrooms of 40-year-old teacher James D. Merrick, Ph.D.

The California Labor Code prohibits employment discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, as affirmed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

Last year, after Merrick challenged anti-gay comments by a Kern County human relations commissioner, some parents demanded that the students be removed from the class solely because of Merrick's "perceived sexual orientation," according to

Lambda attorneys working on the case with Merrick. The 15 students removed from the class were assigned to study hall because Merrick is the school's only eighth grade science instructor.

Merrick filed a complaint with the state labor commissioner last year, which led to the commissioner's March 8 decision stating that the school district's actions "fostered different treatment in an aspect of employment based upon [Merrick's] perceived sexual orientation."

"The decision vindicates all of us who believe that bigotry and hate have no place in the classroom," said Lambda attorney Myron Dean Quon of Lambda's western regional office in Los Angeles. Lambda assisted Merrick in the administrative process and continues to represent him in related legal matters.

Further, the commissioner ordered the district to "cease and desist" from removing students from Merrick's class because he is gay. School officials also are prohibited from "engaging in dis-

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Rick Gerhart

Mayor Willie Brown swore in San Francisco's first transgender commissioner, Jane Bolig, right, and openly gay Chris Dittenhafer, left, to the new Taxi Commission Wednesday, March 10. Bolig holds one of the coveted taxi medallions and is a cab driver; Dittenhafer is president of the Council of District Merchants. The commission will be responsible for reviewing all policies covering cabs and para-transit services in the city.

Lights, camera, cure!

Academy of Friends hosts 19th annual HIV/AIDS Oscar Night Gala Sunday

by Mark Norby

Academy of Friends (AOF) announces its 19th annual Oscar Night Gala to be held Sunday, March 21 at the Fort Mason Festival Pavilion starting at 5 p.m. The Hollywood-style glam slam will benefit 10 Bay Area HIV/AIDS organizations in the search for a cure to the epidemic and, for one night out of the year, gives San Franciscans the chance to do with Oscar what they will.

The gala is the second largest Academy Awards party in the country, surpassed only by the actual Oscar Awards party in Los Angeles. Past events sound more like a cross between Robert Altman's *The Player* and Jenny Livingston's *Paris is Burning*. While some attendees choose to watch the awards while sampling delectables from some of the finest restaurants in San Francisco, others choose to ogle body-painted go-go boys and flirt with voluptuous divas. Burn Hollywood, burn!

A broad stroke of corporate support has enabled AOF to reach the status as one of the largest HIV/AIDS fundraisers in the country. Last year's party raised a total of over \$600,000. In addition, the success of past events has helped AOF launch Cyber Jewel, a one-of-a-kind Internet auction house that benefits AOF's chosen HIV/AIDS organizations.

BMW of San Francisco will

give away a new 1999 BMW 323ia. Restaurants catering the event include Boulevard, Farallon, Hawthorne Lane, Jardiniere, Mecca, Taste, and Vivande. Other glamorous giveaways will be part of the evening's AOF raffle.

The burning question on corporate support, however, is United Airlines' sponsorship of the event. Currently, the airline is suing the city over its equal benefits ordinance that requires all companies that have contracts with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if they offer the benefits to employee spouses. Notwithstanding, organizers of the Oscar Night Gala believe the airline's support of the event can only lead to positive change within United's corporate structure.

Proceeds from this year's party will benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund, AIDS Project of the East Bay, Bay Area Prenatal AIDS Center, Continuum HIV Day Services, Larkin Street Youth Center, Project Inform, Project Open Hand, San Mateo County AIDS Program, Stop AIDS Project, and the Visiting Nurse Association AIDS Project. Tickets are \$150 and are available by calling (415) 995-9890. ▼

Visit the AOF and Cyber Jewel online at www.aofcharity.org. The AOF store in the Castro is open Saturday, March 20 from 12 to 5 p.m., where tickets may be obtained.

Gay Hayward councilman to host Oscar fundraiser

by Vicky Kolakowski

Kevin Dowling, Hayward's first openly gay city councilmember, will hold his second annual Academy Awards party this Sunday, March 21. The event is a fundraiser to support Dowling's political action committee.

The event will feature dinner, the Academy Awards show and prizes for guessing the Oscar winners. The pasta dinner will be provided by the Hayward Firefighters with beer from Buffalo Bill's Brewery.

Dowling, a longtime political and community activist, was elect-

ed to the Hayward City Council in June 1998.

Dowling helped establish and has served as co-chair of Gays and Lesbians Organized for Betterment and Equality (GLOBE) of Southern Alameda County, and has provided leadership to many local Democratic Party organizations and Hayward-area civic groups. ▼

The party takes place from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Hill & Valley Club, 1808 B Street, at Linden, in Hayward. Tix are \$25, payable to "Friends of Kevin Dowling." For more info, call Barbara at (510) 785-6276.

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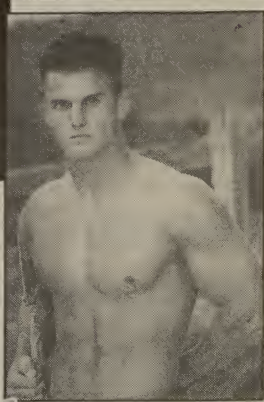


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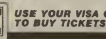
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Read this, or die!

Equality Begins at Home is this weekend, starting Saturday, March 20 in Sacramento, and culminating in a rally Sunday, March 21. It is vital that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community attend this rally because we are living in times where we are either going to triumph by the presence of our numbers and our unity, or continue to be treated as outcasts, thus subjecting ourselves to hate, victimization, discrimination, and the ever-increasing incidence of beatings, tortures, and deaths.

Equality Begins at Home is a series of rallies taking place in every state, so that the LGBT community can show its strength in numbers and make its presence known to state leaders. On Monday, March 22, LGBT youth from around California will participate in the annual Queer Youth Lobby Day, meeting with legislators and staffers to make them aware of issues important to the youth in our community.

Billy Jack Gaither's vigil in the Castro last Saturday was a moving one, attended by a mere 150 people which is a sad, pathetic turnout for a community that is a model for the entire world. Are we so comfortable in our little bubble that we cannot pull ourselves together for a few hours and show our strength, our compassion, our huge population that resides in a city built on revolution and evolution? Does anyone care to tell Jerry Falwell and the rest of the right wing, which is slowly eroding this nation, that we are here, that we are not going away?

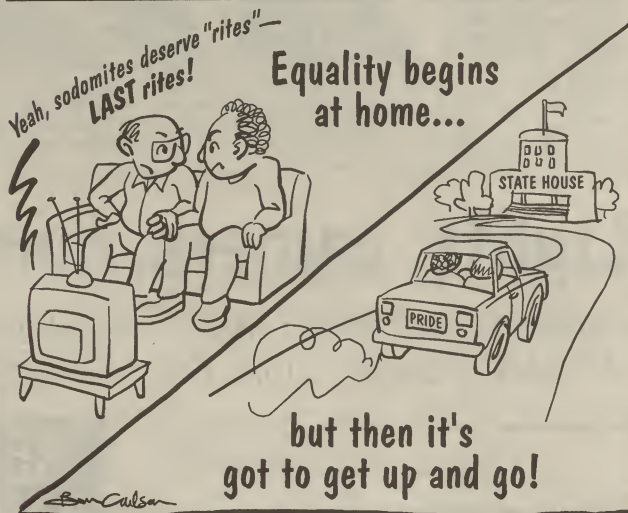
Has anyone out there seen the new Microsoft Interactive Teletubby commercial released this week? Did anyone notice that

Tinky Winky is not in the commercial? Tinky Winky's exclusion from the commercial obviously was the decision of Microsoft. Why is this happening?

Equality Begins at Home is one more chance for the LGBT community to show itself, in whatever style or presence each one of us chooses in our lives. It's a big

chance, a big chance in a world that will attempt to crush our chances and our advances. For those that missed the Gaither vigil, this weekend in Sacramento is a solid opportunity to show the watching eyes of the nation that we are a model for the rest of the world, and a great one at that. ▼

Editorial



Silence is the sound of money talking

by Sandra Steingraber

The emerging debate about the corporate connection to cancer organizations raises important issues that activists ignore at their peril. My view is that only by understanding and exposing these connections will we ever truly be able to address the underlying causes of the cancer epidemic.

Chevron is the classic example of a company that donates funds to cancer organizations. Recognizing that there are many companies whose behavior is identical to Chevron's, I will use that example here for simplicity. When a cancer organization that is working to expose the links between cancer and the environment accepts money from Chevron, it provides Chevron the opportunity to use the work of that organization as a publicity tool if only because its name is listed in the organization's literature and therefore associated with the organization's positive work. No one reading the name of Chevron next to that of a "good-guy" organization knows exactly what that relationship is. In the end, a company that may pollute the environment gets credit for supporting work that focuses on making the link between environmental contamination and cancer.

Similarly, events that benefit cancer organizations sometimes convey a mixed message. Holding golf tournaments and driving cars to benefit breast cancer organizations are two currently popular examples. When a good-guy organization hosts a golf tournament, it implicitly endorses a sport which is under attack by all kinds of environmental groups for its threats to public health. Golf has a substance abuse problem in the form of pesticide dependency, and some public health researchers have argued that it may be contributing to the excesses in breast cancer among professional women golfers. Some researchers also argue that golf courses create risks of childhood cancers when pesticides from golf courses drift into lawns, homes, and water supplies. I make a habit of pointing out that golf

course supervisors are one of four groups suffering from excess rates of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (along with Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange, farmers, and pesticide applicators).

Sending women onto pesticide-saturated grass to raise money for breast cancer seems problematic to me when the sponsoring organization is one that is committed to addressing the environmental causes of cancer. While the commitment of the organization may be unshakable, the methods used to do its work and the larger social effects of those methods must be questioned.

For me, the issue is not whether the good-guy organization will eventually be corrupted by its association with petrochemical companies and golf course owners (though this question may arise: he who pays the piper calls the tune; he who takes the king's shilling does the king's bidding). The point, instead, is about public relations. By accepting funds from polluting, possibly carcinogenic institutions, good-guy organizations allow those institutions to burnish their public image and get credit for fighting breast cancer. Such an association deflects attention away from the ways in which companies may be contributing to cancer.

And there is another message that corporate funding of breast cancer organizations sends. It is a message to women with breast cancer in places like Richmond, California, who have been fighting Chevron for years because of its reckless disregard for public health: the good-guy organization is on the side of the polluters. However critical the good guy is of Chevron, trust and credibility with the grassroots is lost, and the women's environmental health movement is undermined. After all, when cancer groups accept industry money, how do we distinguish between those who claim they remain untainted by these donations and those that are little more than front groups for industry?

Groups that accept funding from the

Chevrons and the golf courses of the world no doubt argue that meaningful social change can be brought about by cooperating with the forces that produce and use the chemicals that we believe contribute to the cancer epidemic. Unfortunately, I can think of no historical example where this strategy has worked. Martin Luther King and civil rights activists did not rid the South of segregation by accepting grant money from the Ku Klux Klan. Nor did they co-host a fundraising event with bus drivers in order to win the right to sit in front. In the end, confrontational non-cooperation, boycotts, sit-ins, force, and appeals to public shame won the day. Similarly, many people were critical of the campaign to divest from South Africa during apartheid and argued that a more constructive dialogue with white leadership would instead lead to meaningful reform. It did not. Once again, nonviolent resistance and boycotts were the winning tickets. Likewise, workers did not win living wages by calmly convincing their employers of the reasonableness of their arguments - at least, not without the threat of a strike behind them. (I only have health insurance now because the National Writers' Union, a UAW local, went to bat for me.)

I believe that true change will come about when the public is prepared to take action. Those concerned about the environmental links to the cancer epidemic have an important role to play in exposing those links. They can't do it by letting themselves be used as public relations fodder or accepting funding from polluters while urging them to "do the right thing." ▼

This column appeared in the February/March issue of *Breast Cancer Action*. Sandra Steingraber is the author of *Living Downstream: A Scientist's Personal Investigation of Cancer and the Environment*, and is a member of BCA's Scientific Advisory Board.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Librarian is victim of public works scandal

Former San Francisco librarian John Philbrook is, I believe, the victim of one of the city's greatest public works scandals and the cover-up that has attended it. Thank you for telling his side of the story, since the city's two dailies unconsciously won't touch it after helping to ruin Philbrook's reputation. [*"SF Main Library staff seeks justice for local gay man," March 4.*]

The cover-up began shortly after the building opened when writer Nicholson Baker revealed to a packed Koret Auditorium that the dysfunctional new building is too small to hold even the existing collections and that City Librarian Ken Dowlin had ordered his staff to send some hundreds of thousands of volumes to the dump. Baker had been tipped off by librarians within the system appalled by the destruction in which they were made to participate. The dumping (and the subsequent giveaways) would not have been necessary if the city's Library Commission had heeded an earlier petition drafted by Philbrook and signed by 31 fellow librarians predicting that the architects' plans would produce an inadequate structure if the blueprints were turned into concrete and steel. For his pains, Philbrook received a dismissive letter from Commission President Stephen Coulter, and was shortly thereafter charged with child molestation and effectively fired. The building went up and fulfilled the librarians' worst fears.

Since the building and the bonds necessary to build it made some of San Francisco's wealthiest and best-connected people even richer, the true story of the New Main fiasco has never been revealed in the local press. The library's resident spinmeister continues to insist that the building contains plenty of expansion space while she simultaneously denies reporters access to see the purported empty shelves or the many books inexplicably stored in Brooks Hall. She does so even though the architects admit that they had to omit an entire floor during construction of their glitzy mess.

In any city that valued the proper use of its public funds and the stewardship of its cultural resources, there would have been a grand jury investigation and probably criminal indictments over the New Main. Instead, most of those responsible for it have gone on to careers elsewhere in library administration or are enjoying the profits from its building, while Philbrook takes the fall and the *Chronicle* and *Examiner* maintain their silence about this travesty.

Gray Brechin
Berkeley, CA

Explanation for 'Working Boys' exhibit

I read, with both confusion and some agreement, Jim Lenartz's letter to the editor of March 11, regarding the Stop AIDS Project's "Working Boys" photo display. First, let me clarify my role: I am on staff of Stop AIDS and have worked in the Polk for the past year as a neighborhood organizer; I am not the photographer of "Working Boys." The photographers of "Working Boys" are the young men who work in the neighborhood exchanging sex for money. What drove me to undertake such a project was the desire to give the hustlers of the Polk a way to speak for themselves — to tell a story about who they are and what their lives are like. My immediate goal was to build a relationship with them to talk about HIV prevention and behaviors that may put them at risk for AIDS; we have accomplished that. My second interest is in building a similar dialogue with their Johns; because of the "Working Boys" exhibit that, too, is happening. The third goal is to have a larger discussion with the neighborhood about hustling and how we respond to it as a community. Mr. Lenartz's letter may be proof that this, too, is beginning to occur.

Mr. Lenartz couldn't have been more mistaken when he charged that the exhibit exploits these boys. "Working Boys" both empowers these young men and invites the viewer to respond as well. Their photographs are powerful and often compelling; they not only begin to address some of the experiences in their lives that force them to trade sex for money, they also speak to many of their needs, which are often considerable.

I invite Mr. Lenartz to take a closer look at the "Working Boys" exhibit and encourage him to get involved with some of our Polk neighborhood service providers.

The "Working Boys" exhibit, which is free, continues through the end of March at Stop AIDS Project's Polk office, 1475 Polk Street (at California) and is open weekdays from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. The photographs are not for sale.

Marcel Miranda
Neighborhood Organizer
Stop AIDS Project

The mouse (rat) that roared

I was shocked and dismayed by the letter from Mr. Edward Gonzales, in reference to organizations such as Latino Encounters, Hermanos de Luna y Sol, and El Ambiente. [*"Wasted resources," February 25.*]

I have been a participant of the Hermanos de Luna y Sol meetings as well as social gatherings. At the Proyecto Ambiente I have been doing outreach in order to recruit volunteers for AIDS/HIV studies at CAPS, at UCSE.

I differ very much from Mr. Gonzales's claim that in these organizations they don't talk about HIV prevention. The majority of participants are illegal immigrants. Many of its members do not hold positions in the Silicon Valley or at an Embarcadero brokerage firm, but they are honest, humble, and dedicated citizens of this community. As far as I know it is not a requirement to have a green card in order to be a member of these groups.

And if by any chance someone who shares my same sexual orientation and my same ethnicity is here illegally, my duty is to help him, not betray him. And by the way, not only Latinos are illegal here. There are some other ethnicities; but because they fit the stereotype of the majority, they are not pointed out.

Mr. Gonzales seems to be concerned about city funds. We live in one of the richest cities of the wealthiest country in the world. If a Wall Street broker could spend \$1,500 for a bottle of wine, I don't see why this city can not help a newcomer. These gay Latinos have left their countries of origin, because they have been persecuted and, if they are HIV-positive, because they lack medications.

In conclusion, this was Mexico before being California USA. When Mr. Gonzales goes to the Castro to party with his "coconut" friends, he should think about that. The street was not named after Fidel, but a Mexican used to own much of the land around there. (I am a citizen, just like him). From where I come from Mr. Gonzales would be labeled a "raton" (backstabber) and in the Latino gay community "una Chismosa" (a gossip).

Jorge Rodriguez-Sanabria
San Francisco

HEAL praised

You deserve an award for your in depth coverage of news that is of interest to our gay community. Indeed for the first time in years, I read your mention of HEAL in one of your letters "Go to Heal" by David Tworowski.

The earth may not be flat but I would really like to know your comment about the few healthy AIDS survivors who are the only ones who never took the drugs or stopped taking the drugs all together, while thousands died from taking the toxic drugs. For myself I stopped taking protease inhibitors when I attended an earlier HEAL meeting. HIV if there is such a virus, never killed anybody. The drugs did.

For over a century, the tobacco industry led us to believe that smoking was good for you and that it was the right thing to do. With your biased reporting I guess that for the next century the B.A.R. will provide us with articles on AIDS fueled by the pharmaceutical and medical establishments who will make more billions of dollars promoting solely their interest by having fabricated this AIDS hysteria in the first place. From a very healthy PWA with "full-blown AIDS."

John Hole
San Francisco

Heal praised II

God! Miracles do happen! The B.A.R. actually printed two anti-AIDS establishment letters in the Letters section. The letters that I am referring to are Mr. Tworowski and Mr. Dennis S. McKnown's letters in Vol. 29, #8 and 9. Does this mean that the long quarantine on anti-AIDS establishment viewpoints in the B.A.R. has been lifted? It's good to see that progress is being made to bring some form of a balanced viewpoint to news about AIDS. One does get tired of only hearing a one sided viewpoint all the time. Maybe this is one of the reasons why so few young gays pay much attention to the news about AIDS. They are just tired, as us older gays are, of being lectured to on the AIDS establishment viewpoint by the local P.C. queens.

I hope this will become a growing trend in the gay media. It would be such a novel idea for a gay newspaper to actually start to treat its readers like adults for a change, on the issue of AIDS. Adults, as you probably already know, like to hear all the viewpoints on an issue and then make up their own minds about what is the truth. Sorry to say, this has not been the approach that gay publications have used up to now.

For once, I would like to see a gay publication print both sides of the AIDS argument and then let the general public decide what is the truth.

Would it be too much to ask a gay publication to print a series of opposing columns, by leaders of both the AIDS establishment and the anti-AIDS establishment on such subjects as: 1. Does HIV exist? 2. Does HIV really cause AIDS? 3. Is the AIDS antibody test reliable? 4. Is the AIDS drug treatment program helpful or harmful? 5. Does the viral load test actually

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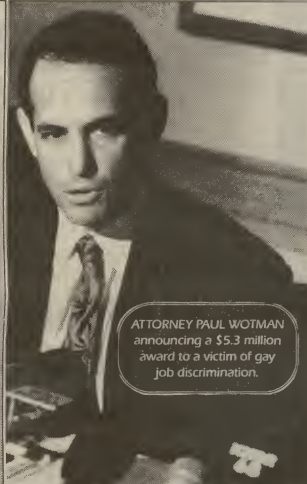
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work? 6. Is HIV really contagious? 7. What is the cause of AIDS? and the most important question, 8. Is there a better way to treat AIDS than with toxic drugs?

In conclusion, people in the gay community, who support the AIDS establishment viewpoint, should ask themselves one hard question, if the AIDS establishment viewpoint cannot stand up to an open public debate, why should I support it?

Richard McCain
Richmond, CA

Tinkled purple

Thank you for printing the 'primordial ooze' letters from us recently. ["Primordial sssnnnnoooozzzzee," February 19 and "Don't categorize PWAs," February 11.]

Though we expected no response from local government, considering the run around they gave us, we are "tinkled purple with magic bag delight" that the "gift" which was supposed to run six to eight weeks more, is now over. We'd also like to thank those who called the SF Department of Public Health and City Hall. We don't delude ourselves that we are important to them. It's your publishing it that did the trick. Thanks.

Dave and Kenny Cowan-Starkovich
San Francisco

Friends of 1800 Market help CCP

Terrific to see that Eric recently made such a fine contribution to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center Project. With such community interest in the centers' coming to life, it looks like things are moving along nicely.

But what else can be done to bring the center to life? What if the Friends of 1800 Market (that group of 'preservationist gays' who sought to save the Fallon Building from demolition) created a board of directors and actually put their money where their mouths are? That board could pledge to raise a nice chunk of money to help pay for the renovation and help the CCP build the new center. I'll even go one step further: several members of that board should become Founders for the CCP at \$1,000 each, too. Wouldn't that be great?

Well guess what folks, all of that - and more - has already happened. Friends of 1800 Market formed a formal board of directors last summer, pledged \$50,000 in contributions by November 1999, and several board members became CCP founders, including my partner and me, at \$1,000 each at the November 15 founders dinner (\$10,000 total). Friends publicly announced the \$50,000 goal and to date, has raised a total of \$24,000 just since last November.

Remember that photo in the November 19 issue of the B.A.R. of the \$10,000 check Friends founders gave? Remember the story last summer when they formed the board of directors? Or when Friends pledged \$50,000? Remember how well the B.A.R. covered those stories? No? Well neither do I because none of that happened.

I truly believe that every contribution to the center, whether through preservation or not, is worthy of publication. Such publicity helps the project as a whole keeping the need for funds on the front burner, thus causing people to step up and contribute dollars and/or volunteer time. This serves the entire community and is something the B.A.R. should support.

For those who are interested, this year's annual April 18th event is, for the first time, being sponsored jointly by Friends and the CCP. It will be held at the home of Jim Siegel, in a grand Victorian mansion on Alamo Square which, in-and-of-itself, is well worth seeing.

With the task of raising money always an uphill struggle, I call upon the proprietors of the B.A.R. to expand their role in community service by doing all they can to promote these events and efforts using the power of the press at their disposal in a positive manner. Shouldn't we expect at least that much from San Francisco's major GLBT community publication in the effort to create a world class LGBT community center.

For those interested in upcoming events or in volunteering, please call Friends at 364-1626. Also, visit our website at www.Fallon.to where links can be found to the CCP site, www.sfgaycenter.org.

Gary R. Goad, Chair
Friends of 1800 Market
San Francisco

A couple of corrections

Thank you for printing my letter, "No Assumptions" (March 4, 1999). I consider it an honor to appear in your paper. I just need to point out two small but very important typos. First, I stated borders and the rhetoric of nationalism are used to hurt people. You printed "hug." Second, my name is Alejandro F. Rodriguez. You printed Alfredo.

I don't mind the misspelling of my first name. But, borders do hurt people. Especially in this part of the country, there are some very deep wounds. The individuals and families that bear these wounds should be treated with respect. Words matter. Sometimes even a typo can seem awfully disrespectful.

Your paper is very important to our community. It

is both entertaining and informative. Please keep up the good fight.

Alejandro F. Rodriguez
San Francisco

[Editor's note: We apologize.]

Do you believe in life after Cher?

Are you sick of divas like Shania, Mariah, or Pa-paya?

Are you tired of going to gay bars and hearing the same old techno, disco-enhanced, revamped version of some crappy ballad on the radio by Celine or Evita, I mean Madonna?

Are you over the whole pretty boy, perfect-bodied-muscle-bound-gym-bunnies-that-have-to-use-drugs-to-dance-until-6 a.m.-scene?

Do I sound bitter? Well, I am.

I am also a gay man who just moved to the city about a month ago. I'm tired of going into the same gay bars and hearing the same songs. I mean, who decided that that is what all gay men love to listen to anyway?

I figured that I moved out here to the gay mecca of the U.S., then there would be at least one gay bar that played new wave, alternative, and modern rock *all the time*, and that there would be a place to dance to it. So far, I haven't found that place, but maybe I'm not looking in the right places.

So I've come up with a proposal: I will offer my services as a DJ free of charge to play music one night in your club or bar on a trial basis, and if there wasn't a market for it, then I guess I'd just have to be miserable, but I would hope that isn't the case. I would provide some of my own music collection if you could provide the equipment. Of course, we'd also have to make up some sort of flyer or word of mouth so people would know about it. I could do that, too.

Music I would like to hear played, would be old 1980s favorites like the Cure, REM, New Order, B-52's, and the Smiths, plus 1990s new rock like Hole, Green Day, Marilyn Manson, Nine Inch Nails, Smashing Pumpkins, Foo Fighters, and Bush.

So, I guess that's it. I've stated my case and that's all I can do. The rest is up to you, the reader. If you know, or are in contact with someone who works in a club and you think they might like to give it a shot, I'd love to hear from you.

Al Walz
Daly City, CA

Relax ... it's a movie

Relax ... *It's Just Sex?* It certainly isn't queer sex. It should be entitled *Relax ... It's Just Coupling*. The film only shows couples and worse, presents singleness as pathetic. There are no multi-person, multi-layered erotic scenes of the sort that constitute sex for many of us who are lesbian/gay (and even an increasing number of straights). This film is only a formulaic sitcom grabbing for our hearts in well-worn ways with a gay bashing, an HIV/AIDS encounter, and some cute fucking. Its only creativity comes in the plot gimmicks deployed to give it a shimmer of chic.

The film is anti-queer because it both relies on and reinforces heteronormative views of sex; it is for couples only, (serial) monogamy ("sexual monopoly") is the only "good" type of human erotic relation - valuing monogamy over "promiscuity" - and straightness is implicitly equated with the always thereness of the pivotal character, Tara Ricotto, who is the social glue (the big cheese?), the totem of responsibility and respectability, around which a gay writer, two Christian butterflies (unlike anyone I know in MCC), lesbian social dancers, and gay drama queens fly. Most pernicious is the film's conclusion posing procreation as the most sublime part of "true" sex, of human coupling.

How could your reviewer, Gary Morris, fail to give some hint of these glaring obnoxious connotations of *Relax ... It's Just Sex?* ["Love, sperm, and other obsessions," March 4.] The closest he came was to note that it is "a light-hearted queer satire along the lines of, say, *Kiss Me Guido*." In fact, there is nothing "queer" about it, at least not in the sense of recognizing the social processes that continue, except in a few blessed parts of San Francisco and a handful of other locals around our world, to cast us who are not straight as most despicable other. And it reinforces our straight culture's dismissal of us as anything notably different by showing "queer" as no more than faddish, empty word play, nothing more than a meaningless banner, hanging from a freeway overpass, having no connection to the film's "plot." The film should be subtitled: *There Ain't Really Any Difference Between Same-Sex and Straight Sex*.

Much of the audience at the Castro on Tuesday, March 9, applauded at the end of the film's well-crafted shimmer chic. So Gary Morris's felicitous view of *Relax ...* is likely widely shared, but his failure to even hint at this film's being a lesbian/gay hymn to heteronormative thinking raises doubts about the B.A.R.'s ability to offer insightful film reviews for us who actually do act queerly.

Richard Cornwall
San Francisco

POLITICS

Gore's early poll numbers make Demo leaders nervous

by Wayne Friday

With his potential nomination foes within the Democratic Party dropping off one by one, leaving only former New Jersey Senator **Bill Bradley** as the Democrat's "alternative" candidate for president next year, these should be happy days for Vice President **Al Gore** as he picks up one important endorsement after another, and revs up a strong presidential machine, including millions of dollars in early money, and appears headed for an easy win at the August 2000 nominating convention. With the first presidential primaries only a year away, the entry of **Jesse Jackson** into the race is becoming more improbable, leaving Gore with Bradley, a man most of the country is unfamiliar with, as his only nomination opponent. Gore should be looking better than he currently is when paired up with either of his two likely Republican opponents in the November 2000 general election, Texas Governor **George W. Bush** and former cabinet secretary and Red Cross president **Elizabeth Dole**.

Indeed, some of the Democratic Party strategists have been scratching their heads as to why Gore currently trails Bush, the likely eventual GOP nominee, by as much as 20 percentage points, and trails Dole, who's never run for office, by as much as 12 points. Why does Gore perform so poorly in the early trial heats that pollsters are running between him and the top GOP contenders?

A recent Pew Research Center Poll showed that most people want the next president to have policies similar to those held by President **Bill Clinton** but vastly different personal qualities. The poll showed that Gore should fit the bill perfectly. However, when the Pew pollsters asked these voters whether there was a chance that some voters or none at all would vote for various candidates next year, they found out that 45 percent replied they likely would never vote for Gore, while only 22 percent said there was a good chance they would support him. Bush was flatly rejected by only 27 percent of those asked, while 32 percent said there was a better than likely chance they would vote for him.

Gore strategists, playing down the poll numbers, are quick to point out that both Bush's and Dole's numbers in these very early polls are inflated by their family-derived name recognition — he's the son of the former president and she's the wife of the GOP's 1996 nominee — and the fact that neither has been subjected to the scrutiny of a national campaign. To be sure, there has been the name Dole or Bush on the national Republican ticket for a number of years, but as vice president for six years and a U.S.

senator before that (as was his father), the Gore name is about as close to a well-known name as any politician could hope for.

Republicans, as expected, point out that the poor Gore poll numbers against Bush and Dole demonstrate, at a minimum, that the losses they have sustained in the Clinton scandal wars, and the beating Republicans in Congress took over impeachment, will not damage their chances of recapturing the White House next year. On the other hand, while Gore appears to be headed to-

wards a relatively easy

Democratic nomination, Bush will be facing certain primary fights from those even more conservative than he is, such as **Patrick Buchanan**, **Gary Bauer**, and New Hampshire Senator **Bob Smith**, all of whom feel

Bush has "moderate" positions on issues like abortion (Bush is "pro-life," but with some restrictions), gay rights (Bush is far from a gay rights advocate, but less a homophobe than his far right Christian opponents), and immigration.

Clearly, Gore and the Democratic Party campaign strategists expect the Republican fight for the presidential nomination to result in an all-out brawl between Bush and his more conservative opponents, leaving the GOP fractured much like Buchanan and others did to **Bob Dole** in 1996.

So, do the early polls showing Gore in real political trouble mean much? Probably not. It is much too early to be taking the polls seriously, but, the check-book Democrats who will be financing the Gore for President campaign next year are getting just a bit edgy at the early poll numbers. Incidentally, some Las Vegas oddsmakers reportedly have the early nominees in 2000 as Gore and **Dianne Feinstein** for the Democrats, with Bush and Dole for the GOP. Let the games begin.

Politics and people

Rocker **Elton John** did a gig at Orlando's Hard Rock Cafe last Friday; 2,000 fans showed up and raised \$150,000 for John's AIDS foundation.

Those who know them best are predicting that the divorce battle between Congresswoman **Ellen Tauscher** (D-Walnut Creek) and her husband, **William Tauscher**, a millionaire Republican computer magnate, will get real nasty — and public. None of this is expected to damage Tauscher politically; she's very popular in her East Bay district.

In Sacramento, no one invites Attorney General **Bill Lockyer** and state Controller **Kathleen Connell** to the same cocktail parties; no love lost between Governor **Gray Davis** and state Superintendent of Public Instruction **Delaine Eastin** either.

Meanwhile, state Democratic leaders, giddy over Los Angeles being named the spot for their

national convention next year, are giving most of the credit to that city's mayor, Republican **Richard Riordan**, for winning the party's nod.

City Hall gossips are saying that both Board of Supervisors President **Tom Ammiano** and Supervisor **Leland Yee** are still thinking of running for mayor.

Neither Gore nor Bradley are expected to show up at the California Democratic Party's state convention next weekend in Sacramento.

Mark Hinkle of Morgan Hill, was re-elected state chair of the Libertarian Party of California last week; **Rodney Austin** of Fresno is the new northern vice chair.

Jeremy Hallisey, the 30-year-old son of attorney and Democratic Party heavyweight **Jeremiah Hallisey**, and a political consultant formerly with **Jack Davis & Associates**, was named last week by Davis to head the governor's San Francisco office.

Georgia GOP Congressman **Bob Barr**, probably one of the most anti-gay, hateful members of the House of Representatives, is expected to be in San Francisco Saturday, March 27, to speak to the National Court Reporters Association, which reportedly has numerous gay and lesbian members, at 2:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel. The topic, "Ethics in the Judicial System in Y2K."

In New York, *George* magazine publisher **John F. Kennedy, Jr.** says he has a "rather large bet" that **Hillary Rodham Clinton** will run for the U.S. Senate next year; I'd be willing to wager Kennedy a rather small bet she won't run.

Speaking of the first lady, rumors persist of marital woes in the White House. Even some of the Clinton's closest friends took note that Hillary Clinton was conspicuously absent from the president's recent trips to Central America and the dedication of his boyhood home in Hope, Arkansas. Reporters scoffed when the White House said that she missed the trips because of a "back problem," pointing out that a day later, Hillary made a frenzied trip to New York to speak to party officials about her possible Senate race, and showed no signs of a "back problem."

Some Democratic Assembly members are reportedly grumbling that their leader, Speaker **Antonio Villaraigosa** is spending just a bit too much time on planning a 2001 race for mayor of Los Angeles and not enough time being leader of the lower house in Sacramento. He's shrugging off the complaints but doesn't deny interest in the L.A. City Hall job.

In Denver last week, the 1,400-member First Plymouth Congregational Church voted to sanction same-sex marriages, not to discriminate against gays in church employment, and to form a support group for homosexuals; 20 smaller churches of the same denomination in Denver offer full acceptance of gays and lesbians. ▼



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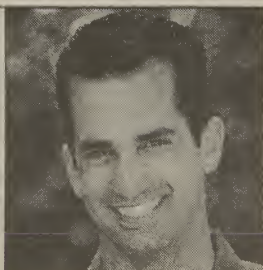
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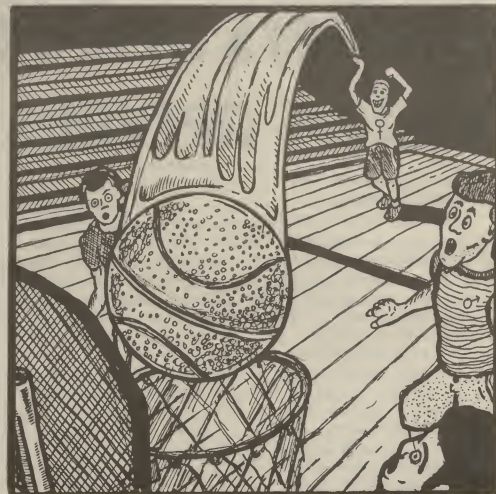
35 years of pick-up

by Nancy Boutilier

It's the high holy days for those of us who wear high tops for more than fashion. March Madness, the NCAA basketball tournament, is upon us. And this year the Women's Final Four, the traveling Isle of Lesbos disguised as a sports circus, comes to San Jose.

True, our Bay Area contenders — Stanford, Santa Clara and St. Mary's — have all fallen to early exits, but the Final Four, like its queer cousin the Dinah Shore golf tournament (which I understand strategically coincides with the basketball per order of the Pentagon because it was seen as a threat to national security to have so many empowered dykes gather in one city) has plenty of other attractions. The coaches' convention starts March 24, and the games — the basketball games — are played over the weekend.

Common games played off the court include "Pin the Tail on the Highest Heels," "Stealth" (an adaptation of the winking game Killer, but in this one the receiver of a wink remains in the game, not out) and, the most popular, "Never a Pair" in which the high



percentage of dykes who attend — many of whom make their living as coaches with this as their annual professional meeting in a highly homophobic profession — circulate freely with other lesbians, but avoid being seen in a group of only two. Caught in a twosome, and you are outed. The winner gets to keep her job.

Of course, we're all good at it; basketball is a game of deception. Fake right, go left.

Before I go too far in stripping the tournament of all its basketball dignity and turning it into some kind of orgasmic lesbian rite of passage, let me say that I am a card-carrying basketball coach who attends for the basketball.

At 3, I was the only girl in the sweat-stench gym-turned-police station where my father played basketball on weekends. I spent childhood summers as the only girl playing pick-up at Procter Street School. As was often the case then, I am still generally the only female in the man's world of pick-up basketball.

So, what have I learned from 35 years of pick-up?

First, progress is slow, but real. I am delighted by how much

"cooler" it is today to be a female athlete. The stigma my generation of athletes suffered — you were not feminine enough, too manly, a lesbian if you were any good at sports — has dissipated.

Dissipated, not disappeared. Recently I attended a college field hockey game. Some guys arrived to cheer for a dorm mate. Awesome, I thought, guy fans at a field hockey game — not so in my day. They seemed to respect the athleticism and cheered supportively. But,

when an opposing player started to dominate play, the men starting talking among themselves, later actually taunting an opposing player — about steroid use, being from an Eastern Block country, "she thinks she's a man." (used as a pejorative, what does THAT mean coming from a man?!) Finally, as if on cue, one of them announced, "She must be a dyke."

So how good does a Michael Jordan or Wayne Gretzky have to be for someone to use his talent and hustle AGAINST him? Is there such thing as "too good" for a male athlete? Though it has been raised higher than in my day,

page 12 ►

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Dykeotomy

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Roundup of Billy Jack Gaither coverage

by Jerry Weinstein,
GLAAD publications
manager

On February 19, Billy Jack Gaither, 39, was bludgeoned to death with an ax handle by Charles Monroe Butler, Jr., 21, and Steven Eric Mullins, 25. "Mullins and Butler stated the reason they killed him was because he was a homosexual. We believe this to be the true motive," said Coosa County Sheriff's Deputy Al Bradley. While there has been no lack of media attention on the heels of this grisly murder, the quality of coverage has been inconsistent, to say the least. Here are some notable examples:

- The *Birmingham News* attempted to provide balanced coverage of this tragedy. On March 4, a straightforward article on the details of the murder characterized Gaither as a kind son, who may or may not have been gay. On March 10, a piece entitled, "Mourners For Gay Man Decry Hatred," was unequivocal in its support of a Metropolitan Community Church service to honor Gaither which called for an end to violence against gays.

- On March 15 *Newsweek* reported that Mullins and Butler planned to murder Gaither because he had made a sexual overture towards one of them. It was irresponsible not to assert within the article that even if Gaither had made a pass, it was in no way justification for homicide.

- *Time's* March 15, "A Burning in Alabama" was extremely thoughtful, quoting Gaither's brother Randy as saying that, "Regardless of his personal life or anything, he doesn't deserve to be killed for this." Sylvester Monroe, the reporter for this piece, elicited the comments of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and took the opportunity to reinforce the necessity to pass hate-crimes legislation across all 50 states.

- *The New York Times*, was among the first of the news outlets to bray "homosexual panic" as a possible justification for this murder. Its March 5 headline read, "2 Confess to Killing Man, Saying He Made a Sexual Advance." Four days later, on March 9, the newspaper made a 180-degree turn. In an editorial entitled, "Billy Jack Gaither's Life and Death," it stated that the response to an unwanted invitation is simply, "No, thanks." In this terse article, it also called for Alabama's hate crimes law to be broadened to protect victims from crimes based upon sexual orientation, and made the con-

nection that coming out is a necessary act if we are to end bigotry and prejudice.

- In the University of Iowa's March 9 *Daily Iowan*, Beau Elliot's "Waiting For Justice In a Burgeoning Culture," was a well-timed diatribe, reflecting on what he terms "this culture of intolerance." As Elliot observed, "The killings of Byrd and Shepard and Gaither should blare like air-raid sirens on the national conscience, if there is such an animal." His brief, yet probing, discussion made the point that conservative politics advance a culture of hate.

- The Associated Press followed the tact that a sexual advance provided justification for Gaither's murder.

- The March 9 20/20 featured an intelligent segment on the Gaither's death. Interviewing friends and family, the news-magazine examined the hateful attitudes shared by some in this small American town, attitudes which may have fueled homophobia and led to Gaither's murder. The silhouetted faces of his two sisters, fearful of the homophobia of their town and stigma attributed to the families of lesbians and gay men, told 20/20 how much they loved Gaither, gay or straight, and described their own parents denial over the recent revelation that he was gay.

Contact: Tom Skarritt, Editor, Birmingham News, 2200 4th Ave. North, Birmingham, AL 35203, fax: (205) 325-3345; Mark Whitaker, Managing Editor, Newsweek, 251 West 57th St., New York, NY 10019, fax: (212) 445-4120, e-mail: letters@newsweek.com (be sure to include name, address, and phone number with all letters); Walter Isaacson, Managing Editor, Time Magazine, Time-Life Building, 1271 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, fax: (212) 522-8949, e-mail: Letters@time.com (include phone and address with all correspondence); Bill Keller, Managing Editor, New York Times, 229 West 43rd St., New York, NY 10036-3959, fax: (212) 556-3690, e-mail: letters@nytimes.com (include phone number when sending e-mails); Howell Raines, Editorial/Opinion Page Editor, New York Times, 229 West 43rd St., New York, NY 10036-3959, fax: (212) 556-3690, e-mail: letters@nytimes.com (include phone number when sending e-mails); Sarah Lueck, Editor, and Beau Elliot, columnist, Daily Iowan, 201N Communications Center, Iowa City, IA 52242, fax: (319) 335-6184, e-mail: daily-iowan@uiowa.edu (include phone number and ad-

dress for publication consideration); Jay Reeves, Birmingham Correspondent, Associated Press, 2200 4th Ave. North, Birmingham, AL 35203; Victor Neufeld, Executive Producer, 20/20, 147 Columbus Avenue, 10th floor, New York, NY 10023-5900, fax: (212) 456-2969, e-mail: 2020@abcnews.com ▼

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Punchy at the Pendulum

by Mark Norby
and Ron McGlashan

Saturday, March 13, 1:14 a.m., Pendulum bar, 4146 18th Street: The owner of the Pendulum bar on 18th Street near Castro reported that a man was being obnoxious and was blocking the doorway leading into the bar, thus interfering with business. The owner told the man to leave, but before doing so the man punched the owner in the mouth, splitting his lower lip. The suspect is described as a black male, 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighing around 160 pounds, in his 30s, shaved head, wearing an over-sized dark brown shirt, last seen running northbound on Collingwood Street towards Market.

Multiple maniac merchant menace

Sunday, March 7, 7:45 p.m., Walgreens, 498 Castro Street: After several months of being warned to stay out of Walgreens for threatening the store's staff and for shoplifting, a suspect identified as Santana Pulido, 20, again threatened the night manager telling her, "I'm going to punch you in the face, you bull dyke." Pulido then left the store and was last seen walking westbound on 18th Street. The manager then called the patrol who found the suspect fronting 100 Collingwood Street.

A warrant check revealed that Pulido had an outstanding \$5,000 shoplifting warrant for a prior incident at the now defunct Castro

store Husbands, formerly located near the corner of 18th and Collingwood streets. Pulido was booked on the above charges and is being investigated for suspected hate crimes in the area. Pulido is also suspected of several "dine and dash" incidents at Orphan Andy's restaurant, 3991 17th Street.

Needle stash in Collingwood Park

Friday, March 5, 3 p.m., Collingwood Park: A janitor responsible for maintaining the Eureka Valley Recreation Center at Collingwood Park in the Castro reported that he discovered several syringes stashed in a hole in the wall of his office. When he called the police, officers discovered that the hole led to the women's restroom on the other side of the wall. The police wish to express the serious health threat presented by used or dirty needles and caution the public in handling all types of syringes.

Chic shoplifter raps Rolo

Wednesday, March 3, 6:30 p.m., Rolo, 2351 Market Street: A clerk at the Rolo shop on Market near Castro Street reported that a man grabbed a \$200 Dolce & Gabanna bag and ran out of the store. The clerk ran after the man and chased him Valencia Street, almost six blocks away. The clerk yelled at the man to "just throw down the bag," and that "the police were on their way." The man threw down the bag, paused for breath, and took off northbound on Valencia. The suspect is described as a white male, 5 feet, 3

inches tall, around 160 pounds, wearing a snappy ensemble including a black stocking cap, a black leather jacket, a tan vest, and an orange shirt.

Gap clowns on Crystal

Crystal Way, 2335 Market Street; The Gap, 1975 Market Street: Both stores reported an unknown suspect had etched a large clown face, about 2 feet in diameter, in the panes of the storefront windows. The damages cost the stores hundreds of dollars in replacement charges and authorities warn merchants that the "clown tagger" may be setting a pattern in the area. Merchants that have experienced similar incidents are asked to immediately contact the San Francisco Patrol Special Police, or 911 emergency.

Polk coke trust bust

Tuesday, March 2, 1 a.m., Hemlock Alley and Polk Street: A man on parole was arrested on Hemlock Alley in the early morning hours for possession of rock cocaine. A warrant check revealed that the suspect had several outstanding arrest warrants. He was taken into custody and is pending a parole revocation hearing. Possession of rock cocaine carries felony charges, heavy fines, and imprisonment.

Wanted: Queer officers

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police is now hiring and is seeking lesbians and gay men for positions. The patrol offers competitive pay, good benefits, credit union membership, and annual training. Prior law enforcement experience or college education preferred. Send resumes to: SF Patrol Special Police, P.O. Box 17089, San Francisco, CA 94117. ▼

Dykeotomy

◀ page 10

there remains an athletic ceiling for girls. What an ironic image it is to keep raising the bar for girls to jump under!

As a high school coach, I worry about who it is that sets that bar. Who decides how aggressive, physical, competitive girls can be? How "feminine" they "should" be? Consider this, the girls' varsity team I coach played 25 games this season, and the only female head coach that my players saw ... was me.

Of course, the boys' team saw even fewer women head coaches in the course of its season. Few boys in America will ever have a female coach. Girls, on the other hand, can expect to play for a male coach at some point in their athletic careers. Title IX, federal legislation that has allowed women in sports to demand equity under the law since the 1970s, has helped to increase the number of girls and women playing sports. However, its passage ushered in a decline in the number of women coaches. A smaller percentage of women are coaching today - at both the high school and college levels - than when I was in high school. Prior to Title IX, 90 percent of college women's teams were coached by women; today only 47 percent are.

When there was little money or status in women's sports, it was fine to let women be in charge. Ironically, as Title IX allowed coaches and officials in women's athletics to make more money, those jobs - a field dominated by women when I was a child - be-

came sought after and increasingly secured by men.

I am all for "the best person for the job," and I have known, played for, and been privileged to coach beside many wonderful male coaches in a variety of women's sports, but questions do arise for me when: 1) girls see so few women in sports leadership positions; 2) women have both dropped out and been pushed out of a career path that they dominated when it was marginalized by society; 3) half of the coaching jobs, in practical terms, are off-limits to women because women are not seen as viable leaders of men and boys; 4) an old boys' network remains in place on the hiring end; and 5) homophobia remains a hiring factor, and the best way to avoid hiring a lesbian - and that is a priority for many athletic directors - is to hire a man.

If a school actually stated that it wanted a woman to fill a vacancy for a position coaching a girls' team, there would be an outcry of "discrimination" against men and possibly a court case. But with half the jobs closed to women, as I believe positions coaching men are, why is there no outcry about discrimination?

When Coach K retires from Duke, we all know that a man will fill his shoes. When Pat Summit retires from Tennessee, I am not so sure that a woman will fill her pumps. Few women whose resumes include coaching women successfully are considered qualified for a men's college or NBA coaching job, yet men who have coached or simply played men's basketball are generally considered sufficiently qualified to lead

a women's team. What does that say about the way we envision women as leaders - of men, of women, of people?

Shooting hoops in my driveway, I learned to expect my jump shot to fall. Not everyone shared that expectation for me. When I wore my letter sweater proudly at my college's big football game as a sophomore, an alum in a raccoon coat asked, "What sport?"

"Basketball," I answered proudly.

"Oh, is your boyfriend on the team?"

I owe an enormous debt to the women who pushed for change - some of whom were later pushed out for it - or for being dykes. The NCAA was only a men's organization when I was a freshman in college, and when men's and women's programs merged, it was not the women who were put in charge of the combined programs. Some felt that the merger with the NCAA was a hostile takeover of the AIAW, the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.

This year marks 25 years of women's basketball at Stanford and a number of other big-time programs. To see the Cardinal lose in The Big Dance, as the women did last week to the University of Maine, still speaks to what a long way, baby, women's basketball has come.

Still expectations die slowly. If you think that Title IX has filtered down into the social sphere, come with me to the playground. I still can't get the guys to pass me the ball, and when my jump shot falls sweetly through the net, everyone except me still seems surprised. ▼

Youth, theater featured at SF AIDS conference

by Cynthia Laird

The 11th National HIV/AIDS Update Conference starts this Tuesday, March 23 in San Francisco, and in addition to reports from prominent researchers, physicians, and others in the field, youth and theater will be featured at the event that runs through Friday, March 26 at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium.

Registration for the conference is \$300 per person and \$125 for people living with HIV/AIDS and students with valid identification. Approximately 2,000 people are expected to attend the AIDS conference this year.

Health Initiatives For Youth (HIFY), is spotlighting the profound effect the epidemic has had on adolescents and young adults through a series of events, under the theme "Keep It Real," that will bring together HIV-affected youth from across the country along with service providers, advocates, and other professionals.

"Young people living with HIV are their own best advocates," said HIFY's Chris Boehm, a young person living with HIV. "In bringing together youth and adult professionals, we hope to foster a partnership which will better arm young people to fight this epidemic."

"Keep It Real" will feature 12 workshops devoted to youth issues, along with a range of other activities. The goal is to educate young people and help them apply new information to their home communities.

The plenary session on Thurs-

day, March 25 will be entirely devoted to youth issues. The National HIV/AIDS Update Conference is one of the largest HIV/AIDS conferences in the country, bringing together people living with HIV, service providers, and policy makers to build skills and become educated about new advances in the fight against the epidemic. In keeping with this year's theme, "Partnering Science and Practice," presentations will include not only the latest research, but also front-line experience of those affected by research findings.

Theater festival

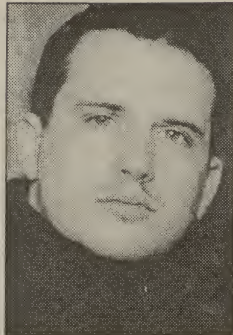
The conference will also showcase the ninth AIDS Theater Festival, organized by Hank Tavera. The festival includes HIV-related plays, performance art, music, and sketches by groups and individuals from across the country.

"In establishing this festival in 1989, we pioneered the idea of presenting AIDS theater and performance art as a powerful and

developing genre that moves participants and audiences to reflect, act, and change their attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors in regards to the HIV pandemic," Tavera stated.

The festival is presented in conjunction with the update conference and in association with the sixth Latino/a AIDS Theater Festival, Tavera added. All shows are open to the public and Tavera said people don't have to go to the conference to attend events. Performances start Tuesday afternoon and continue throughout the conference; most of the events are in Larkin Hall at the civic auditorium.

As in previous years, the festival includes a diverse group of performers in a wide spectrum of formats. Given the crisis situation of HIV in the African-American population, Tavera said that this year the festival is honored to include three performances focused on this community. Presenters from as far away as New York and Hollywood and as close as San Francisco and the East Bay will be



Chris Boehm

featured. Two plays written and performed by youth will be performed and this year's festival will demonstrate the strong influence of music and song.

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DPH sex club forum Wednesday

by Liz Highleyman

This Wednesday, March 24, Dr. Mitch Katz, director of the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH), and Dana Van Gorder, DPH coordinator of lesbian and gay health services, will convene a forum to discuss the city's guidelines concerning public sex establishments.

The meeting will be the first public discussion of the regulations in over a year and a half, and the first to involve Katz since he succeeded Dr. Sandra Hernandez as health director in January 1998.

In 1996 DPH, in cooperation with the Coalition for Healthy Sex, a group of sex club owners and safer sex educators, developed a set of guidelines which came to be known as the "Minimum Stan-

dards for the Operation of Sex Clubs and Parties." Among the guidelines are rules about lighting, a prohibition on locking doors on rooms or cubicles, and a requirement that all spaces must allow for monitoring by club personnel.

Proponents of the guidelines claim that they help reduce the sexual transmission of HIV. Opponents assert that the regula-

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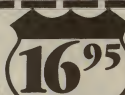
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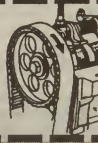
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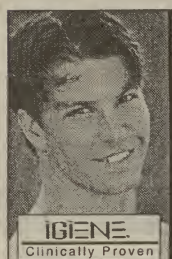
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Head roils Richmond

by Bob Roeher

The head was carefully placed in the middle of a footbridge leading to a riverside park in Richmond, Virginia. It was found by a couple out walking on March 1. The police found its body, nearly a mile away. Together the pieces once formed Henry Edward Northington, a man known to his friends as Eddie.

Slowly the story began to spread around, it took nearly a week to make it into print. How and why Northington lost his head remains a mystery. But someone appears to have been sending a message.

The Richmond gay community feels it was for them. The footbridge leads to a section of the James River Park known as a gay cruising area. Police have made highly publicized arrests there in the past.

"Overkill is a huge symptom, a huge piece of what makes us think that a particular incident might be a hate crime," said Shirley Less-

er. She is the Richmond-based executive director of Virginians for Justice a state lesbian and gay political organization.

Virginians know that perhaps a dozen gay men were strangled by a serial killer in the Tidewater region of the state, their bodies dumped in isolated areas. Two young lesbian campers were murdered in the Shenandoah National Forest, the case remains unsolved. And a few years ago, a Richmond teenager was beaten to death by her three lesbian housemates in a romantic triangle turned ugly.

Northington's story is a complicated one. He was a gay man, 39, a strapping 6 foot 4 inch man who weighed 220 pounds. He was a familiar sight in the city's gay bars and restaurants, a character more renown than beloved.

His problem apparently was demon rum. "He'd have trouble keeping his hands off of people," recounted bartender Paige Armstrong to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. "He'd be too physical with people. Annoying." He was banned from at least one estab-

lishment for that behavior.

There were times when Northington appeared to be talking gibberish or carrying on a conversation with an imaginary friend. Sometimes he appeared to be heavily medicated, prescription or otherwise. He would sleep in city parks or shelters for the homeless, though his family lived in the area.

"He had a home," said his mother Dorothy Webb, "but he wanted to see it all. Material things didn't mean anything to him." The family accepted his being gay.

"It may be a hate crime, it may be a sex crime, it may be a ritualistic crime," said Detective Thomas Leonard who is leading the investigation. "The big question is: Why? It's one thing to kill someone, it's another to cut their head off."

The life that Northington once lived offers fertile ground for speculation. And until the question of "why" is answered, many people in Richmond will be looking nervously over their shoulders. ▼

Gaither vigil

◀ page 1

the leaders of the march - Watkins, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Gaither's hometown friend Phillip Meeks, and members of the transgender community including 19-year-old female-to-male transgender John Torno - marchers at the back of the phalanx tromped past the Detour bar and shouted at men smoking outside the black-facade building, saying "Do something for your community! Another Saturday night at that same old dive? One of ours is dead, you Detour faggots!"

Watkins organized the permits just days before the vigil and spoke passionately under the street lamps and the glare of a camera that filmed the small group at the plaza's historic site. There, several speakers presented their thoughts and feelings, and participated in a spiritual purging of the elements of hate and violence.

The transgender community was well represented at the vigil. Transgender speakers focused their concerns first on the death of Gaither, then, and more adamantly, on the complete absence of organized marches on the occasions of transgender murders.

"Billy Jack Gaither was brutally murdered and we are angry," said Rosalyn Montgomery, a middle-aged transgender woman from San Francisco. "But we want you to know that

there has been an average of one transgender murder every month; there has been eight transgender murders since August; there has been two transgender murders in Texas in February, the third in Texas in two months, and the media does not do its job in covering these horrible acts. On February 26, another transgender killing occurred in Texas. Does anyone march for these, our dead? No. It's time the community comes together. We must stand up and fight the hatred and the violence and the killing."

One supe at vigil

Mark Leno was the only gay supervisor to attend the vigil. President of the Board of Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Supervisor Leslie Katz were both out of town, and expressed their disappointment at being unable to attend.

"We need to be represented by as many gay officials as possible," said Jason Karella, a 23-year-old San Francisco gay man who held a candle at Harvey Milk Plaza.

"The laws don't necessarily change attitudes," Leno told the B.A.R. "This murderous, anti-queer climate is directly affected by the messages our legislators communicate. Hate crimes legislation must include the protection of our community, and all fair-minded elected officials will need take a strong stand against the Knight initiative, or be held liable for any additional hate crimes against the queer com-

munity, should it pass."

Community activist Tommi Avicoli Mecca spoke at the vigil and later expressed to the B.A.R. his disappointment in the attendance at LGBT community rallies, demonstrations, and marches. "I don't know what exactly is happening, but it seems like the changes in San Francisco - the high rents, the yuppification of the Castro, the driving-out of the grassroots elements of San Francisco - is inhibiting the gay community's ability to come together in strong numbers.

"The Shepard vigil was a lot larger, and perhaps it's because Matthew was young and blond and cute, all the characteristics gay men love. But it's got to go beyond that. I think the Gaither vigil was very powerful and those that were there could feel it. It would be wonderful if our community would come together and experience the transforming power of these marches, as one community," Avicoli Mecca said.

The vigil concluded with a call for an end to all of the phobias that exist, spoken by one of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence: "We call for an end to homophobia, heterophobia, xenophobia; we call for an end to racism, sexism, ageism." The list continued and with each call the sister looked to the sky, and out of her mouth she breathed fire. The fire lit the sky above the crowd, and the pulse of excitement at this purging was collectively experienced. "We call for an end to hatred, for hate has no place in the family of humanity." ▼

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Dr. Kelly is the former manager of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center at University of California, San Diego.



Federal hate crimes bill reintroduced

by Bob Roehr

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) of 1999 was launched at a bipartisan Capitol Hill news conference Thursday, March 11, orchestrated by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). The bill would add gender, sexual orientation, and disability to protected classes under current federal law. It revives one introduced in the last session of Congress.

The HCPA would offer legal grounds for federal assistance with these types of crimes where local authorities request it, or federal intervention when there was reason to believe that local officials were not adequately pursuing such crimes.

"We owe it to the families of [James] Byrd and [Matthew] Shepard and [Billy Jack] Gaither, and perhaps others we don't know," said Representative John Conyers (D-Michigan), a leading sponsor. He is the ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee.

Senate Judiciary Committee member Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) has scheduled a hearing in April. At the end of a similar proceeding last July, he felt that the legislation was "too broadly written" and could not gain the 60 votes necessary to close off a possible filibuster in the Senate.

Vice President Al Gore, in a statement released by his office, said, "We must send a clear and strong message to all who would commit crimes of hate: It is wrong, it is illegal, and we will catch you and punish you to the full force of our laws."

FBI statistics for 1997 show that anti-gay hate crimes were 14 percent of all reported hate crimes. That is up from 8.9 percent in 1991.

Gay and lesbian anti-violence groups maintain that the federal numbers dramatically undercount what is occurring in the streets, and that the problem is much worse. But they concede that rising numbers also reflect an increased willingness of both victims and law enforcement to report these incidents and treat them seriously.

"We hope that Congress will have the will and the conscience to do what many state lawmakers this year have failed to do," said Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). That is to address hate crimes "by passing legislation that is of great importance, both symbolically and practically."

Only 21 states have hate crimes laws that include sexual orientation. Legislatures in Wyoming, Idaho, Oklahoma, and Montana have defeated hate crimes measures this year, while the governor of New Mexico has vetoed a measure passed by that state's Legislature.

Doubts and opposition

Last July, Deputy Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. testified before Hatch's committee in support of the HCPA. He said that under existing law, over the last two decades, the Justice Department has prosecuted on average only 20 of these cases a year. So expansion would not be a significant drain of resources.

Some point to Holder's statement as demonstrating little need

for such federal legislation. State and local authorities have vigorously and effectively pursued recent high-profile murders such as those of Shepard and Gaither, earning praise from local gay activists. And lower level crimes are not likely to draw federal intervention.

Even within the lesbian and gay community there is opposition to hate crimes legislation. New York City attorney and activist Bill Dobbs, with Queer Watch, says that the police enforcement environment "has changed significantly" in the last 15 years since the legal strategy of enacting hate crimes laws was formulated. "We have to rethink this push," Dobbs said.

Dobbs argued, "Criminal law in this country covers every kind of victim. Discrimination law does not. Why are we focusing on something where we are already protected?" He used the example of New York where efforts in Albany for a state hate crimes bill are "a tragic waste of political capital" which would be better used in trying to repeal the state sodomy statute.

Richard Sincere, president of the libertarian group Gay and Lesbians for Individual Liberty, is opposed to the principal of hate crimes laws. He called them "feel-good laws whose primary results are thought-control, violating our freedom of speech and of conscience."

Others are worried about the expansion of federal authority. A criminal justice task force of the American Bar Association called this trend "misguided, unnecessary and harmful," in its report "The Federalization of Criminal Law," issued on February 14. Former Reagan Attorney General Edwin Meese chaired the group.

The explosion of federal criminal law, historically the domain of states and localities, has become so extensive that "there is no conveniently accessible, complete list of federal crimes," the report stated.

The report also noted that while federal funding of anti-crime efforts has grown substantially, 95 percent of all prosecutions are still handled by state and local authorities.

The *Washington Post* cautioned in a February 23 editorial: "When Congress considers crime legislation, it certainly should pay careful attention to the real law enforcement purpose - not merely the short-term political gains to be had by appearing tough on crime." It urged consideration of repealing some existing federal criminal statutes.

Many Californians see the danger of expanded federal jurisdiction being played out over the medical use of marijuana. The state is one of several where voters have legalized such use. But federal officials have sought to negate the local will through its own criminal prosecution.

Paul Varnell, in his syndicated column, wants to see efforts aimed at the root causes of hate crimes. He is urging gay and lesbian leaders to push the Clinton administration for action beyond the symbolic one of passing a law.

Among his suggestions are a study by the National Institutes of Health to better understand the causes of homophobia, a "zero-tolerance" policy of anti-gay ha-

rassment in the classroom, and a "national dialogue on homophobia" modeled after President Bill Clinton's initiative on race.

"The real challenge is to get equal protection of the laws," said Dobbs. "That means no quick fixes like a hate crime law, that means going out on the street, and agitating, and forcing the public, the prosecutors, the police to take seriously crime against gays and lesbians." ▼

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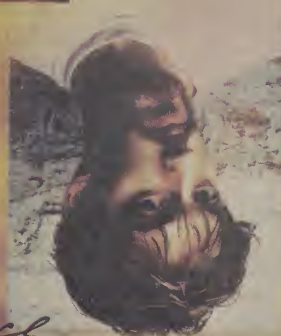
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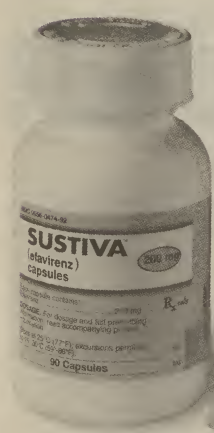
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1. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), December 1998.

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- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:**

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafegot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:**

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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DuPont Pharmaceuticals
Wilmington, DE 19880
Issued September, 1998

Lockyer

◀ page 1

issue was in the hands of the federal government, and that it "may take a long time" to get them to accept such local programs.

However, Lockyer said that unlike his predecessor Dan Lungren, he would be "sensitive to local community perspectives on the issue," and that his office would not directly intervene in opposition to local medical marijuana clubs.

Lungren actively sought to close medical marijuana clubs.

Lockyer's presence at the dinner was another sign of the numerous differences between Lockyer and Lungren.

"The attorney general's speech at the BALIF dinner symbolizes the change in attitude at the highest levels of the Department of Justice about the gay and lesbian community," said deputy attorney general Kevin James, a former BALIF co-chair.

Lockyer's speech, his first major address to a Bay Area LGBT group since taking office in January, discussed a number of specific changes he has made in his first two months in office. Lockyer joked about his first day on the job, and the difference between his administration and Lungren's.

"He left behind five copies of *Reefer Madness*," Lockyer joked, highlighting the office's shift on medical marijuana.

Much of Lockyer's initial work has been rescinding Lungren's official opinions and withdrawing from lawsuits where Lungren had filed legal briefs. In his first weeks on the job, he withdrew briefs in a Tennessee case opposing appli-

cation of age discrimination laws and in a Georgia lawsuit opposing application of the federal Americans with Disabilities Acts to state governments.

Lockyer also withdrew Lungren's brief opposing same-sex marriages in Hawaii, and organized six other attorneys general from western states to oppose a controversial federal appellate decision that allows landlords to discriminate against unmarried couples on religious grounds.

"I could spend a year just withdrawing Lungren's briefs," Lockyer said, half-jokingly but also apparently amazed at the widespread extent of Lungren's intervention into lawsuits around the country on behalf of conservative causes.

Lockyer said that he is enjoying his new position, and favorably compared it to his experience as president pro tem of the state Senate from 1994 to 1998, noting that as attorney general he can take direct actions each day that produce tangible results.

"It's an honor, and every day is a treat," Lockyer concluded. "I hope I will always merit your support."

Awards, memorials

Lockyer's speech capped a full evening of awards and memorials at the dinner, which was attended by local lawyers, elected officials, and judges, including California Supreme Court Justice Stanley Mosk, who is also a former state attorney general. This year's event was "one of the most successful ever," dinner committee co-chair Mark DeCastro of the San Jose City Attorney's office told the B.A.R.

A special verbal recognition and ovation was given to recently



Attorney Cris Arguedas

retired municipal court Judge Herb Donaldson, who was the first openly gay male judge appointed to the San Francisco bench.

BALIF's Community Service Award was given to local philanthropist, business, and community leader James C. Hormel. A graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, he later served as assistant dean and dean of students of that law school, and established a public service law program at the school to encourage law students to go into public service.

Hormel has been in the spotlight in recent years after endowing a center for gay and lesbian re-

sources at the new San Francisco Main Library, and because of the controversy over President Bill Clinton's appointment of Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg and the U.S. Senate's ongoing failure to consider confirming the appointment.

A BALIF supporter "since its inception," Hormel praised the group for serving a "chronically underserved community."

BALIF's Legal Service Award was given to the AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP). The agency was originally started as BALIF's first community service project in 1983, and after serving 30,000 people over the following 15 years, the agency now has 11 staff, offices in San Francisco and Oakland, and a network of over 600 volunteer attorneys.

ALRP Executive Director Irwin Keller delighted the crowd by singing his acceptance speech, written to the tune of the "Minute Waltz." The song's frantic pace was apparently partly in response to the dinner committee's request that recipients keep the speeches short and the pace lively. Keller is a member of the drag a cappella singing group, the Kinsey Sicks.

Outside the dining room, Keller and ALRP had a table promoting a fundraiser for the agency, selling tickets to the Friday, May 21 performance of the Tony Award winning hit musical *Rent*.

One of the evening's more serious moments was a tribute to the late attorney Tom Steel, one of BALIF's founders and a prominent progressive civil rights attorney. Steel's longtime friend and attorney colleague Cris Arguedas recounted stories about Steel's role in founding the group and in

landmark legal cases on behalf of the gay and lesbian community. Arguedas presented a plaque to Steel's partner, Dr. Milton Estes. Estes, himself a civil rights leader and national vice chair of the American Civil Liberties Union, described Steel as living a life of "joyous attachment," saying that he was always "diving into life."

Estes said that Steel was aware that "what is important is the love we give and the work that we do." The tribute concluded with the announcement that the Pride Law Fund, a tax exempt sister organization of BALIF, has created a postgraduate fellowship for LGBT attorneys in Steel's name. Each year, the fellowship would fund a new attorney for that year to support their work on projects to address unmet legal needs in the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities. It would be the first fellowship of its type in the nation.

The Pride Law Fund is beginning a \$250,000 endowment drive to support the Steel Fellowship. A donor has agreed to match donations of \$500 or more, up to a total of \$50,000. The Pride Law Fund will host a benefit cocktail party on Tuesday, April 13 at the 2223 restaurant, on Market between Sanchez and Noe streets in San Francisco. For more information, call (415) 437-5711 or check BALIF's website at www.balif.org.

For more information on ALRP's benefit tickets to the musical *Rent*, call ALRP at (415) 291-5454 or by e-mail at rent@alrp.org. Tickets are \$100 and \$200 each, the latter including premium seating and an autographed 2-CD set of the musical.

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(1) AMERICAN JOURNAL OF OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY, 1996; (2) INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF FERTILITY, 1996; (3) CALIFORNIA LAVENDER SMOKEFREE PROJECT, CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION.



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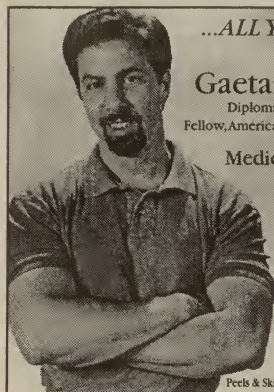
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Three women gained much-deserved recognition from their sisters on Saturday, March 13 at the 7th Annual Lesbians of Achievement, Vision, and Action (LAVA) Awards, sponsored by Bay Area Career Women. They are (L to R) Nicole Schapiro (left), founder of BACW; Nanette K. Gartrell, M.D., whose pioneering psychiatric studies changed the ways lesbians are viewed; and Sandra R. Hernandez, M.D., CEO of the San Francisco Foundation. The awards capped off a night of food, drinks, and entertainment at the Hyatt Regency.

Medical marijuana case moves forward

by Bob Roehr

The law does not permit the use of marijuana to treat a variety of ailments. ... Yet the [federal] government itself provides marijuana to another group of persons suffering illnesses," wrote U.S. District Judge Marvin Katz Wednesday, March 10. Does that violate the equal protection clause of the Constitution?

Katz was not prepared to answer the question, but he did believe it serious enough to reject the government's motion to dismiss the case. He ordered *Kuromiya v. the United States* to move forward to the stage of discovery in preparation for trial.

The dichotomy stems from the trial of Robert Randall for using marijuana to control his glaucoma. As part of the 1978 settlement, the federal government established a compassionate use program that provides him with government grown marijuana. Few people knew about it, only 15 gained access to the program.

But by 1991 word spread about using marijuana to treat AIDS wasting and people living

with AIDS (PWA) began to flood the office with applications for compassionate use. The Bush administration panicked, froze enrollment of those it had already approved, and eventually terminated the compassionate use program altogether.

However the federal government has continued to supply marijuana to the original 15 enrollees, now lowered by death to eight, even though it argues that marijuana is of no medical value.

Kuromiya v. the United States was filed on July 3 in Philadelphia. Kiyoshi Kuromiya is the lead plaintiff in the 165-member class action suit drawing plaintiffs from around the country. Attorney Lawrence Hirsch said he recruited Kuromiya because of his "total respect for the man."

Kuromiya is a longtime activist. He was severely beaten and hospitalized during civil rights demonstrations in the South in the 1960s. He was one of a dozen lonely souls at the first national gay rights demonstration, at the Liberty Bell on July 4, 1965. He is a respected national AIDS activist. And he was the lead plaintiff in the landmark case that struck down government censorship on

the Internet.

He says he joined the case because of his own experience with severe nausea and wasting associated with AIDS medications. "I can be sitting in front of food and not be able to even look at it." But after smoking a bit of marijuana, "I can eat a full meal." He also has supplied donated marijuana to people with other debilitating conditions.

"The last thing someone dealing with the symptoms of cancer chemotherapy wants is to be arrested," he said. "The last thing that someone with AIDS wasting wants is to end up in a jail cell. And yet that is our federal government's approach."

Katz rejected a number of the broader claims made by plaintiffs and limited the question to that of equal protection. But in taking the more conservative route, he places the case on more incremental legal terrain where the eventual decision is more likely to be sustained upon appeal.

Kuromiya believes the discovery process will uncover memos "that will be very embarrassing on the reasons why they felt they had to end the compassionate use program." ▼

Barney Frank introduces federal medical marijuana bill

by Liz Highleyman

On Tuesday, March 4, Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) introduced a bill that would allow marijuana to be prescribed by doctors for certain medical conditions. Many patients use medicinal cannabis for indications such as controlling nausea caused by chemotherapy, stimulating the appetite to alleviate HIV/AIDS-related wasting, and reducing eye pressure due to glaucoma.

Frank's measure, the Medical Use of Marijuana Act, would reschedule cannabis to Schedule II, giving it a status similar to drugs such as cocaine that are legally controlled but have recognizable medical uses and may be prescribed under certain conditions. According to Frank, "The irony is, of course, that many drugs much more harmful, much

more powerful, and much more addictive than marijuana can be prescribed."

According to the proposal, the federal government may not prohibit or restrict the prescription or recommendation of marijuana by a physician for medical use, prohibit an individual from obtaining and using marijuana from a prescription for medical use, or prohibit pharmacies from obtaining and holding marijuana for prescription by a physician for medical use, as long as such use is in accordance with state law. The bill would remove federal sanctions on states that institute laws allowing the medicinal use of cannabis. Stated Frank, "What we need to do to get marijuana into the hands of people suffering is to set aside the federal controls on marijuana, so the states can determine this issue for themselves."

The proposed legislation

would also require federal authorities to provide marijuana for medical research.

Co-sponsors of the bill include Representatives Tom Campbell (R-California), John Conyers (D-Michigan), John Olver (D-Massachusetts), Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), Pete Stark (D-California), and Lynn Woolsey (D-California).

The bill is not predicted to do well in the House, which last fall voted 310 to 93 to adopt a resolution stating that marijuana is a dangerous drug and should not be approved for medical use. This is the third time that Frank has introduced such a measure, and it has been defeated each time. The political climate has shifted somewhat since the last attempt, however, as several states have approved medical marijuana initiatives and a few cities have begun to try to find ways to provide medicinal cannabis to ill citizens. ▼

Powell stands by DADT

by Peter Cassels

A report issued Monday, March 15, criticizes the Pentagon for not enforcing its "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," (DADT) policy by stating that harassment of gays and lesbians in the military more than doubled in 1998. According to their own records, the armed forces last year discharged the highest number of personnel for homosexuality in 11 years. Yet in an interview, Colin Powell, the retired general who helped craft, first implemented, and was the most ardent supporter of the policy, said he continues to stand by it.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), a national gay rights group, counted 400 cases of anti-gay harassment in the military last year, including death threats, compared with 182 violations in 1997, a 120 percent increase. (See story, page 1.)

While the Pentagon declined comment on the SLDN figures, Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Tuesday, March 16, that while he had not seen the report, he has not changed his view that DADT should be continued. Asked if he would support the policy if he were still the nation's top military commander, he stuck to his guns: "Yes, just as the current chairman [Army General Henry Shelton] does. There's



Colin Powell

been no change in the thinking among the military about that."

Powell was interviewed in Providence, Rhode Island, where he was promoting his America's Promise project, which mobilizes society's various sectors to build and strengthen the character of the nation's youth. Although he rarely grants interviews, and then only to discuss the public service program, he answered questions about gays in the military as he left an event for inner city youths at the city's convention center.

He met with members of Youth for Action, a local group performing community service. Giving them a mixed message, Powell answered one question about how to deal with advice from parents and other adults by saying, "You ultimately have to satisfy yourself."

He said when he was an inner city youth, he drew inspiration from "people living a good life, people who have good character." Powell cited marriage as the center of society: "For those of you who don't marry, it doesn't mean you can't have a life, but it's nice to have a partner, children and grandchildren."

Ironically, one of the young people he met is openly gay. After a skit the group presented on the importance of abstinence from sex to avoid contracting HIV, Luis Pagan, 15, a youth coordinator with the group, told the general he admires him and that "I'm in every risk group for AIDS, including sexual orientation." Later, Pagan asked Powell to be a Youth for Action adviser.

President of his high school's Gay/Straight Alliance, Pagan was asked how he equates his admiration for Powell with his apparent homophobia.

"I run into a lot of homophobic people," he explained. "I try to understand that they have their own views. Although they can't accept me, I as a gay person accept them. So, although he might have those views, I still look at him as a great man because of his positive aspects. I try to focus on the high points, just as I hope people look at my high points and not just at the fact that I'm gay. Rather, look at the things I do first and my sexual orientation secondly." ▼

needs to be established whereby service members can seek redress when their commanders err.

In 1997 the Pentagon wrote guidance on implementing DADT, but it was never distributed to field commanders. It wasn't for lack of money. Earlier this year SLDN wrote its own memo covering the same topic and sent it to every major command. The cost was \$1,130.

Beginning March 22, Osburn and Bencke will spend three days as guests of the Pentagon at Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio, Texas. The training facility accounted for 65 percent of the Air Force's homosexual discharges last year. Osburn said they "hope to begin to start developing relationships with individuals there to try understand better what is happening."

However, SLDN will not be talking with anyone who has been discharged under DADT. The Air Force sighted the Privacy Act in declining to provide those names.

It is more than a bit ironic that if the military had respected the privacy of those individuals while they were in the service, many of

them likely never would have been discharged.

At the news conference, Rob Gaige, a Cornell University Navy ROTC midshipman, recounted an experience that happened to him. A ROTC instructor asked, "What's on your jacket, Gaige?" He explained that the red ribbon stood for AIDS awareness.

"What, are you some kind of fucking homo?" the instructor replied.

Gaige said that soon afterwards, "while giving a physical fitness briefing, the officer challenged my sexuality in front of the entire battalion by wrongly insinuating that I was sexually involved with a fellow midshipman."

As time went on some of his ROTC peers joined in harassing Gaige and made threats of assault. They escalated over the years.

Finally the midshipman went to his commanding officer, saying he was gay, seeking to have the harassment stopped. The officer's response was to tell the entire battalion and initiate proceedings to drum Gaige out of the ROTC program. ▼

Sex club meeting

◀ page 13

tions are an unnecessary infringement on personal freedom, and that public sex environments with private spaces can be effective venues for prevention education.

The guidelines were proposed by DPH in October 1996, withdrawn in December after public outcry, then reinstituted in early 1997. Debate about the regulations continued throughout the first half of that year. In January, a new group, Community United for Sexual Privacy (CUSP) formed to oppose the standards. In March, the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club moved to oppose the guidelines.

In the August 1997 Hernandez left DPH to become chief execu-

tive officer of the San Francisco Foundation, and Katz became the interim health director. Also that month, the city's Human Rights Commission (HRC) voted to approve a letter from its Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Advisory Committee asking DPH to reconsider the regulations, after previously defeating such a motion in June. The guidelines currently remain in effect.

At this week's meeting, Katz and Van Gorder will take public comment on the sex club regulations. Additionally, Van Gorder will present a quarterly report on his activities as coordinator. ▼

The meeting takes place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 101 Grove Street, room 300. For more information contact Dana Van Gorder at 554-2599.

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AIDS-fighting protein in tears, saliva

by United Press International

New York researchers said Monday, March 15 that the elusive AIDS-fighting compound scientists have been seeking in the urine of pregnant women may be a common protein that is also found in human tears and saliva.

In a study in Tuesday's issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, New York University biochemistry professor Sylvia Lee-Huang says the protein is known as lysozyme. Lysozyme, an enzyme present in saliva and tears, is produced in high levels during pregnancy. It was identified about 75 years ago by Alexander Fleming, who discovered penicillin.

Lee-Huang says this may explain why HIV-1 is not transmitted through saliva and tears.

In the new study, the scientists found other anti-AIDS proteins associated with a pregnancy-related hormone — enzymes called ribonucleases. Lee-Huang says finding these proteins opens a door to new strategies against the disease and may be the basis for better anti-AIDS drugs. One advantage to these compounds, she says, is that they occur naturally in the body and may not have the serious side effects seen with most AIDS treatments.

She says the next step will be to further study the proteins in the laboratory and in animal trials to see if they can be turned into a new AIDS therapy.

The new research is the latest finding based on an observation made about five years ago. Scientists found that transmission of HIV from mother to child is rare during the first trimester of pregnancy. They traced this protective effect to a pregnancy-related hormone, called human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG), and found it had activity against AIDS and the AIDS-related cancer, Kaposi's Sarcoma. Small clinical studies showed that the hormone shrank KS tumors.

Later researchers, including

AIDS pioneer Robert Gallo, discovered that it wasn't the hormone that attacked the virus, but most likely a protein related to the hormone. In a study last year in the journal *Nature Medicine*, Gallo called this substance human chorionic gonadotropin associated factor, or HAF.

In the current research, Lee-Huang purified the part of the HCG molecule that was a prime candidate for having anti-viral action and found that the purer HCG, the less effective it was against cells infected with HIV.

So, Lee-Huang went back to the unpurified HCG, teased apart all the proteins in the mixture, then tested them for their activity against the AIDS virus.

She found that the two proteins tightly bound to the hormone — human lysozyme and ribonucleases — had anti-AIDS activity.

The scientists also isolated the proteins from mother's milk, white blood cells, chicken egg white and cow pancreas and found that they had potent activity against the virus.

Virologist Nava Sarver, of the

AIDS division at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, says Lee-Huang has identified good candidates and reasonable candidates.

But she adds, "This by no means says these are the only ones." She says many groups are hunting for the mysterious anti-AIDS compound, and much more work needs to be done to prove that these proteins are what scientists have been seeking.

She says, "Whether this is the elusive factor is an open question." ▼

GLMA urges universal hepatitis vaccinations for gay men

by Mark Norby

The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) is calling for universal hepatitis A and B vaccinations for men who have sex with men. A recent report completed by GLMA, a national organization of 2,000 gay and lesbian physicians and medical students, also calls for all health care organizations to update vaccination recommendations in order to slow the spread of this highly communicable, potentially life-threatening virus.

"While health care providers working with gay [and bisexual] men have understandably focused attention on HIV, the fact is that gay [and bisexual] men are at increased risk for other medical conditions which also have fatal conse-

quences," according to Dr. Darren Carter, chairperson of the GLMA's policy committee. "It is long past time for health institutions to address other pressing health needs among gay [and bisexual] men, especially hepatitis A and B."

Gay and bisexual men are at greater risk in contracting the virus through anal sex, especially oral-anal sex, and through the use of recreational drugs, through contact with chemicals and poisons, and by alcohol abuse. The virus first attacks the liver and can cause inflammation and liver failure, can be either acute — of limited duration — or chronic, which leads to numerous health complications with a much higher degree of morbidity.

"We agree on this recommendation," Dr. Mitch Katz, San Francisco's health director, told the *Bay*

Area Reporter. "Hepatitis A and B are preventable diseases. We provide vaccination against both A and B at our primary care clinics and at San Francisco General Hospital."

Paul Cotten, director of the Berkeley Steamworks Health Information Program, enthusiastically supports GLMA's recommendations and is interested in providing vaccinations at the bathhouse facility. "We absolutely think this is a great recommendation and wholeheartedly support the idea of universal vaccinations," Cotten told the *B.A.R.* "In the past, we have sponsored hepatitis B vaccinations at the Berkeley Free Clinics, and we

would welcome the opportunity to do similar sponsorship for both hepatitis A and B."

"We hope that funding is available," Carter added, "either through local or state government or through the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention], to offer easier vaccination accessibility, through the creation of outreach programs such as mobile vaccination centers that can target establishments frequented by gay and bisexual men." ▼

Contact GLMA with any questions by calling (415) 255-4547.

UCSF hosts women's health symposium Sat.

by Cynthia Laird

The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) is hosting the sixth annual Women's Health 2000 Symposium this Saturday, March 20 on the UCSF campus.

The one-day event, entitled "Optimizing Your Health for the New Millennium," includes workshops on more than 25 topics that have been requested by women in the Bay Area, including women's sexual health, herbal remedies and dietary supplements, menopause, learning to negotiate, and being a successful patient in a managed care setting.

State Senator Jackie Speier (D-San Francisco/San Mateo) will deliver the keynote address during which she'll discuss "The Politics of Women's Health in California."

Also, for the third year, the popular Teen Health 2000, designed exclusively for young women ages 13 to 18, will be hosted by UCSF. The sessions will run concurrently with the adult

women's program.

The registration fee for the symposium is \$40 for adults, \$30 for seniors, and \$10 for teens. The fee includes lunch, snacks, and live entertainment at the end of the day.

Some of the sessions for the adults include "Risk is Still Relevant: Why Women Should be Concerned About STDs, AIDS, and Abnormal Pap Smears," "Creating Balance Through Stress Reduction," and a workshop on depression.

Sessions in the teen program will feature guest speakers on topics that young women want to discuss, organizers said.

In both programs, some of the nation's leading researchers, healthcare providers, and women's health advocates will present the most up-to-date information to help women make informed healthcare decisions. ▼

The symposium takes place from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the UCSF campus, 513 Parnassus Ave. To register, call (415) 263-0321.

Gay teacher

◀ page 4

crimination or different treatment in employment or opportunity based on actual or perceived sexual orientation."

Merrick is considered a teaching veteran in the school district and is a recent recipient of the Teacher of the Year Award from the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce. Over 100 students remain in his six science classes, far outweighing the number of students removed from Merrick's classrooms.

Contacted by the *Bay Area Re-*

porter, the Bakersfield school district declined to comment to the state's decision involving Merrick.

Lambda and the California Teachers Association are "planning a lawsuit on Merrick's behalf," according to Beatrice Dohrn, Lambda's legal director. "Schools need to learn about justice so they can teach it to their students," continued Dohrn. "If schools themselves can't be fair and nondiscriminatory, how can they teach those values to kids? Merrick's students are far better served by this ruling than they were by missing science class simply because it was taught by a gay man," Dohrn concluded. ▼

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Retrovirus.ink

by Bill Snow, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Now that the ink has settled on the sixth annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, it may be possible to look at the conference less as a source for publicity and more as a reflection on the state of AIDS research. This conference was developed six years ago as an antidote to the huge, politically oriented and pharmaceutical company dominated International AIDS Conference that now happens every second year. On off years like 1999, however, the retrovirus conference, which has always been held in the U.S. with government sponsorship, is by default the major AIDS science conference of the year. As if to scare people off, the last two have been held in February in Chicago.

AIDS.org

The main thrust of the retrovirus conferences has been to minimize the circus elements, in theory to emphasize science. This has taken the form of limited registration, no company displays, and a minimum number of concurrent sessions.

The organizers say they want to have a small, intimate conference in comparison to the international conferences. So, attendance has been capped at something over 3,000, which no one considers small. Registration has been limited to applicants who have a scientific reason for attending the conference (no investment types), and scholarships for people with AIDS and activists have been severely limited and competitive. Beyond that, a high registration fee, \$500, and a first-come, first-served registration have added the impression of exclusivity. This year there were only 20 full scholarships and 30 partial scholarships of complementary registration and a hotel discount for treatment activists. Only five

of the full scholarships and 15 partial scholarships went to activists or community-based individuals from the U.S.; the rest went to international participants, so our presence was, actively or passively, severely limited.

The big news item of the conference this year was Beatrice Hahn's very impressive work on the origins of HIV-1 from chimpanzees. This captured media attention as much for its public interests (endangered animals, a mystery solved, an ecological and human crisis in West-central Africa) as for its elegant science. While there are genuine ramifications for AIDS research, particularly in understanding how HIV-1 can coexist in these healthy animals, from a scientific standpoint the finding is largely of academic interest compared to other issues raised – and not raised – in the conference.

AIDS.edu

This brings us to the issue of what qualifies as science. In its early years, this conference was almost equally balanced between treatment and pathogenesis, basic science on the disease itself. This was a unique opportunity for those working with patients to interact with those on the cutting edge of research. With the popularity and commercialization of this conference, the basic science portion has been forced somewhat to the back burner. Ben Cheng of Project Inform (PI), who follows this as closely as anyone, regrets that there is less and less opportunity for these important interactions.

The more basic research that is presented tends to favor the big names and high profile issues. This year that meant that a great many of the "basic science" presentations were actually about the ramifications of early treatment and how to activate reservoirs of resting cells, which in turn could re-activate the HIV eradication effort.

PI summarized the science by saying this was "a very schizoid conference, with researchers optimistic and long-time patients and clinicians disappointed."

AIDS.gov

Because the number of oral presentations is limited and even more because of the composition of the meeting planning groups, AIDS Clinical Trial Group (ACTG) trial results seem to get most of the clinical speaking slots. PI's Cheng complained that "ACTG trials get presented no matter how well or poorly designed or whether the results are important or interesting." Of course, the results of these trials need to be communicated, but other, more stimulating research gets buried behind the biggest trial network and its questionable research agenda.

AIDS.ink

The powers of the marketplace were everywhere, barely beneath the surface at this conference (as at so many others). Companies took a lot of people to dinner, sponsored a lot of presentations and receptions, and monopolized the presentations on new drug development.

More troubling is how that drug development is proceeding. The focus seems to be on market share rather than resolving the bigger problems of this disease. The majority of new drugs are improvements on already-approved approaches with better market potential: less-frequent dosing, no

ACTION UPDATE

AIDS Treatment News has a good summary for finding information about the sixth Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections on the web. Their summary and description of available websites can be found at (believe it or not) AIDS.org/ATN. Click on back issue 313, and then the article title, "Retrovirus Conference: Finding Information on the Web." ▼

food restrictions, and improved potency in antiviral naive patients. What is lacking from these consistently upbeat presentations is any attempt to look at the drugs in combination except with other drugs from the same company, or in patients experiencing treatment failure. As PI pointed out, manufacturer claims about the lack of cross-resistance in new drugs tend to fade quickly. And fade is the operative word. Certain drugs like the Gilead nucleotide analogs just disappeared from the oral presentations at Chicago. In this environment, no news could very well be bad news.

At the same time, the poster presentations became more aggressive and slick. Not having displays has put mutational pressure on the drug companies to find other ways to promote their products, which has taken the form of moving in on the poster sessions. Poster sessions used to be an opportunity for young or non-mainstream researchers to show and discuss their work, but this year the posters were dominated by drug companies. The companies provide their internal, and understandably biased, researchers, and the academic researchers sponsor extravagantly printed billboard-like displays and a large supply of expensively printed reprints. The reprints are

welcome, but this poster inflation ups the stakes for the small guys and outsiders to get any attention.

Vaccines.nothing

Finally, though vaccines have found their place in AIDS research, they made a poor showing at this conference. The vaccine research accepted and presented was not the best. This fact is evidenced by the Keystone Vaccine Conference, which occurred at a nice ski resort a few weeks earlier. This, unfortunately genuinely exclusive conference, had dozens of posters and presentations that were more important and more interesting than the ho-hum stuff at the retrovirus conference. Either the retrovirus meeting should become solely a treatment meeting or some real work needs to be done in future years to improve its coverage and focus.

So, don't be sorry if you didn't get to the retrovirus conference. There's lots of information in newsletters and a number of community follow-up sessions (often funded by companies). By staying home and using the web, you don't miss much. By limiting this conference it has become largely a press-oriented and insider event. This leaves those of us really needing the AIDS science as the extras at AIDS.ink. ▼



ACT UP

BCA to host community forum March 25

by Cynthia Laird

The Black Coalition on AIDS (BCA) will present a community forum, "What's the 411? An African-American HIV/AIDS Town Hall Meeting," Thursday, March 25 at the West Bay Conference Center in San Francisco. People with questions and concerns about HIV/AIDS services, funding, housing, and substance abuse treatment are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Positive Directions Equals Change is co-sponsoring the session, described as an opportunity to set the stage for dialogue about HIV/AIDS services and funding between various city department heads, clients, community groups, and service providers.

With rapidly changing HIV/AIDS demographics, people in African-American communities and those who serve them need to be at the forefront as programs develop, evolve, or dis-solve, organizers said. The town

hall meeting is a rare opportunity for clients, community groups, and service providers to ask questions and get answers about HIV/AIDS services in the city, BCA staff members said.

Confirmed panelists for the meeting include Dr. Mitch Katz, San Francisco's health director; Barbara Garcia, director, Community Substance Abuse Services; Joel Lipski, director of housing development at the Mayor's Office of Housing; and Olsen Lee, director of housing services for the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency. Gregg Johnson, of Positive Directions Equals Change will serve as moderator.

Confidential HIV/AIDS testing, counseling, and voter registration will also take place on site. A light buffet will be available from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. ▼

The town hall meeting is from 6 to 8 p.m. at 1290 Fillmore Street. For more information, call BCA at (415) 346-2364.

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Community Consortium
Positive Health Program of the UCSF Medical Service at San Francisco General Hospital

IEP director Thomas Sinclair dies at 47

by Cynthia Laird

Thomas M. Sinclair, executive director of the Immune Enhancement Project (IEP) in San Francisco, died Monday, March 8, of complications from AIDS. He was 47. Sinclair passed away quietly and comfortably at his home in the company of Barry Savage, his partner of 23 years.

A memorial service will be held this Saturday, March 20 at 2 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, 150 Eureka Street. A reception will follow.

Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Sinclair attended Antioch College in Ohio and graduated from the University of Oregon. While a student in Oregon, he met Savage and they soon had their first home together on a farm in Eugene. In 1979 Sinclair moved to Paris and spent a year studying French at the University of Poitiers, where he obtained a grande diploma from La Varenne, Ecole de Cuisine, in Paris. Shortly afterwards, Savage moved to Paris and together they started Savage/Sinclair Specialty Catering.

Sinclair was an active force in the fight against AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic, starting as a volunteer for the AIDS Action Committee in Boston. He worked on their hotline to provide support and information on AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases and crisis counseling for people at high risk for AIDS.

Sinclair's overwhelming desire to serve the community led him

to San Francisco in 1987, where he enrolled at the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine and received his master's of science degree in traditional Chinese medicine in 1990.

At IEP, Sinclair served as a staff acupuncturist, clinical director, and executive director during his four-year tenure. He oversaw the supervision and education services of the practitioners and provided information to over 800 HIV-positive patients. As a licensed acupuncturist he handled treatment of IEP patients and wrote the agency's quarterly newsletter that was distributed to over 2,500 people.

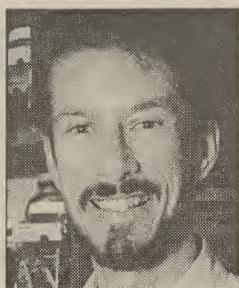
Several years ago, Sinclair received a research grant from the Office of Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health to conduct an acupuncture/herbal HIV-related sinusitis clinical trial. The study compared the effects between the use of herbs and acupuncture and the use of the antibiotic Augmentin for the treatment of chronic sinus infection in people living with HIV.

Because of Sinclair's research in the area of blending of traditional Chinese medicine with knowledge of the latest trends and treatments available for HIV disease, he was frequently invited to make presentations to groups of patients and

practitioners working with people living with AIDS (PWA).

The Community Advisory Board of the Community Consortium, an association of doctors and clinics conducting research, recognized Sinclair for his work at IEP and voted him on to the board of directors.

In 1995, Sinclair was appointed to the HIV Health Services Planning Council, formerly known as the CARE Council. As part of that body, Sinclair helped make funding decisions for nearly \$38 million in federal Ryan White CARE Act dollars. The funds serve the needs of 80 agencies serving over 54,000 low in-



Tom Sinclair

come and underinsured PWAs in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin counties.

Most recently, Sinclair was hon-

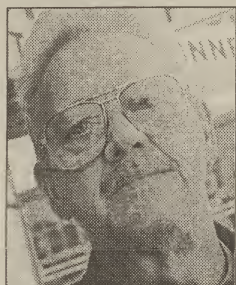
next page ►

Polk Street's Marv Warren recalled as community pillar

by Mark Mardon

Hundreds of San Franciscans, including top city officials, turned out on Saturday, March 13 to memorialize the passing of Marv Warren, who for many years was the proprietor of the popular QT bar on Polk Street and was a major figure in the gay and small-business communities. Warren passed away suddenly at his San Francisco home March 8 at the age of 58.

At the standing room only service, held at the Halsted N. Gray-Carew & English Funeral Home, Mayor Willie Brown, former Mayor Frank Jordan, and Supervisors Leland Yee, Mark Leno, and Gavin Newsom were among



Marv Warren

those who hailed Warren for his energy, humor, and diplomatic skills, which he employed vigorously and successfully working

with other merchants, City Hall, the police department, and various neighborhood groups to achieve the revitalization of the Polk Street commercial corridor.

"What's difficult for me with Marv's passing," Yee told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "was he was always somebody you could turn to for help and guidance. He was a leader not only in the Polk Street area, but in the entire small business arena in San Francisco. He was a rare individual who could work with everybody."

"He had a real joyful spirit in his work," said Leno. "He was devilish in his humor, very focused on whatever issue he was advocating, and always kept a smile on his face. He had a contagious energy."

Born in Bird City, Kansas on

January 2, 1941, Warren was the son of the late Elton and Katherine Warren. He was reared in Colorado, eventually moving first to Southern California, then to San Francisco, where he found his calling as a small business owner. He operated a Polk Street restaurant, the Smoke House Broiler, before taking charge of the QT.

A close friend and fellow Polk Street merchant, Karen Techeira of Freed, Teller & Freed, told the *B.A.R.* that Warren and her family always celebrated holidays together: "He was a part of our family." She and Warren talked daily, and that's what she misses most.

But more than that, Techeira added, Warren's loss will be felt throughout the Polk Street corri-

next page ►

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Thomas A. Broscoe



Thomas died on January 10, 1999, surrounded by family and friends, of melanoma cancer. A long-time resident of San Francisco, Thomas last worked at Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco before

leaving to pursue a Bachelor's degree in fine arts at the Tisch School of Arts at New York University, graduating with honors in 1998. Thomas had planned to pursue a career in acting in Los Angeles.

Despite the certainty of a bright career ahead of him, Thomas was diagnosed with metastatic malignant melanoma in December of 1998, and died shortly thereafter at the home of friends in Seattle, Washington. Thomas was comfortable and pain-free in the end. How we shall miss this brave soul whose life ended prematurely.

A celebration of life for Thomas will be held on Saturday, March 20, at 12:30 p.m. at the Chapel at the Unitarian Universalist Church and Center, 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary Blvd.), San Francisco, with a reception immediately following. In lieu of flowers, please feel free to send memorial contributions to: Gay Men's Health Crisis, 119 West Twenty Fourth St., New York, NY, or to the Horizon Foundation, 870 Market St., Suite 1155, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Edward Thomas Heberger



Edward Thomas "Serenity" Heberger passed away in San Francisco on March 8, 1999. Edward was the beloved partner of Todd J. Out-house; dear brother of William R. Heberger of Sacramento; dear brother of Jerome J. Heberger of Anaheim; dear brother of Mary Ann Light of Norfolk,

MA; and devoted uncle to Nicolas Heberger, Gregory and Jessica Rose Light.

He was born April 14, 1961 in Newport Beach, CA and lived in the Los Angeles area for many years, where he worked in commercial banking. He moved to San Francisco six years ago and dedicated much of his time to Project Open Hand where he was a volunteer and member of the Board of Directors.

His friends and family will remember Eddie for his compassion, dignity and unconditional love. He was never without a witty remark, caring word, or kind act. His smile, his sparkling eyes, his warm heart and zest for life will never be forgotten.

A Committal Service was held on Friday, March 12 at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City, CA. Donations in Eddie's memory can be made to Project Open Hand, 903 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109.

Robert E. Jerrell

Bob passed away on March 7, 1999, of lung cancer. He was a resident of Orinda, CA, Cloverdale, CA and Loubressac, France for many years. He was brother to Kathryn Hohlwein of Sacramento, and loyal friend to many of diverse backgrounds. He was a distinguished member of the American Daffodil Society, the American Iris Society, and numerous other horticultural organizations. He was a volunteer with the AIDS Project of Contra Costa County.

Friends are invited to attend a memorial service on March 28 at 1 p.m. at the Lake Merritt Boat House, Oakland. Memorial contributions in Mr. Jerrell's name may be made to The Nature Conservancy.

Mark Anthony Molina

May 31, 1957 — March 10, 1999



On March 10, Mark, my beloved partner, victoriously crossed this life's finish line, surrounded by family and friends. For eight fortunate years, I shared life with this loyal, generous, spirited man, whose beautiful eyes and smile shone with his immense capacity to love. Mark excelled at all he did — running, working out, dancing, gardening, designing floral arrangements, entertaining in our home, and much more. Above all, Mark excelled at love. His love for me, his family and friends and his love of plants and animals enlightens us all.

I (Mark's partner, Mike); Mark's parents, Peggy and Manuel; his sisters Terri and Lisa; nieces Yoli and Juanita; nephew Michael; and chosen family, Teddy, Brian, Steve and Rob, Kathy, Lonnie and Bruce, Chloé, Marcus and David — will be forever touched by Mark's love, and will often fondly recall "Mark days." A celebration of Mark's life takes place Sunday, March 29, at 10 a.m. in the AIDS Memorial Grove, Fern Grotto, in Golden Gate Park. A gather-

ing at Mark and Mike's home follows. Contributions may be made in Mark's name to Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS).

Mark, I love you forever.

Warren Neves

March 2, 1957 — February 20, 1999



Warren passed away peacefully in his sleep at the Coming Home Hospice in the Castro. While living with HIV for a number of years, he was only recently diagnosed with lymphoma.

Warren's big passion in life was tennis. As an active member of the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Federation of San Francisco, he organized banquets for the national tournament, and delighted many with his culinary skills at numerous tennis events. Warren single-handedly laid the groundwork for organizing gay teams to play in the United States Tennis Association league. On the court, Warren was a self-proclaimed doubles specialist, and will be remembered for his wide variety of shot making, not to mention his critical advice.

Anyone who knew Warren knew he would always help a friend whenever he could. Warren, you are missed every day. A potluck party honoring Warren's life will take place on March 27; for details, Call Joe at (650) 574-1541. All are invited.

Don C. Pinson

November 18, 1940 — February 20, 1999



Don was born in Georgia, the son of Arthur and Rebecca. He attended Emory University and served in the Air Force.

Don arrived in San Francisco on Labor Day in 1964 and never left. He

performed in major productions in The City, including roles as "The Boy" in *The Fantasticks* at Ghirardelli Square, "Cocky" in the West Coast premiere of *Roar of the Greasepaint, Smell of the Crowd* at the Marines Memorial Theater, and his favorite, the "Younger Brel" in *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well* at the Marines Memorial. Don was a musician, a painter, an avid cook, and a brilliant linguist.

Don died peacefully on February 20 after battling lung cancer for a year. He is survived by sister Shirley, nephew Steve, cousins Becky and Margaret Anne, and Joe, his loving partner for 22 years.

Don's death left a gaping hole in the lives of the people who loved him, but we are comforted by the knowledge that he is now at rest with his cherished spirit guides.

A memorial service will be held on April 17 at 1:00 at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St.

Force, and the Living Wage Commission. He served as a neighborhood liaison with City Hall under three mayors and the Board of Supervisors. Warren was instrumental in developing the Reading School Junior Achievement Committee, which brought merchants into the grade school to read books to the students and encourage them to read.

"When he took over as president of Polk District," said Leno of Warren, "there were as few as two dozen members. As a result of his leadership, it's grown to 300 members in just a couple of years."

The fate of the QT bar is uncertain right now, Teixeira said. Warren's partner in the business lives in Oregon, she noted, and will likely want to sell the bar. At present, the QT remains closed to business, and is unlikely to reopen anytime soon.

As a single father, Warren raised three children. He is survived by his son Terry, daughter-in-law Anne, and granddaughter Sarah; his son Todd; and his daughter Tammy. Warren is also survived by his brother Gaylord of Utah and sister Lisa of Southern California. ▼

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Thomas Sinclair

◀ previous page

ored for his years of dedication and service to IEP and the community at a benefit dinner last November. Sinclair was presented with certificates of recognition from the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine; U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer; and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, which proclaimed November 21, 1998 as "Thomas Sinclair Day."

Savage thanked Sinclair's primary physician, Dr. Alison La Voy, her staff, and his acupuncturist Dr. Misha Cohen. Additionally, Savage thanked Sinclair's many friends who helped grant his wish to remain at home with dignity and to be surrounded by love in his last days.

In addition to Savage, Sinclair is survived by his mother, Helen; brother, Tim; nephew, Matt; nieces Jen and Katie; and his loyal companions Zola and Butch; as well as by all whose lives he personally touched.

Donations in Sinclair's memory can be made to IEP or the Quan Yin Healing Arts Center. ▼

Marv Warren

◀ previous page

dor. She said that when she was president of the Polk District Merchants Association (PDMA) in the early 1990s, the neighborhood was in decay, with many shops vacant and the population of homeless people living on the street increasing. Warren was the first bar owner to step forward to help change things around, and his work produced concrete results. Soon there were police bicycle patrols, improved street lighting and cleaning, projects to alleviate the parking crunch, and a successful push to get Realtors to fill store vacancies.

Warren thrust himself into community service, becoming not only president of the PDMA, but serving as president of the San Francisco Council District of Merchants Association, as a board member of the Golden Gate Restaurant Association, as a member of the Golden Gate Pacific Kiwanis Club, and as a member of many city commissions, including the Homeless Task Force, the Prostitution Task

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FREE BASIC* DENTAL SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THE CASTRO FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV AND AIDS

(Funded through the City and County of San Francisco under CARE Title 1)

Persons must qualify and document eligibility to receive CARE Title 1 services (letter of HIV diagnosis, residency in San Francisco, and demonstrate financial need). A complete list of requirements is available at the office during the times listed below.

Community Dental Care, Inc

(sharing the dental office of Dr. Blair Keck)

4128 18th Street (corner of Castro and 18th)

(415) 861-6640

Office hours: M-W-F, 8:30 am to noon, and 1:00pm to 5:00pm

*Not all dental services are covered. Details of program available from office staff during the times listed above. Information not available on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

The dope show

by Jim "Punky"
 Provenzano

Welcome to Alotta Scheme-worx, my traveling one-man fundraiser. I haven't exactly figured out who I'm going to donate my proceeds to, but I've got a great idea — Moshing For Life™ — and I hope you'll support me with a sponsorship!

The goal of Moshing For Life™ is simple. Travel a great distance, because AIDS fundraising is all about creating insurmountable goals, otherwise our administrators would be plum out of work. We also endeavor to send out Alotta letters, rent Alotta billboards and make Alotta T-shirts. You get the picture. Sign here and cough up the front money.

Creating a catchy marketing plan is crucial. Since the middle and upper middle class white male cycling gay target market has been saturated with the mini-vacations — oops — incredibly successful Bike Rides, I've decided to go for the Youth market with Moshing For Life™! Queer youth deserve to be exploited just like everyone else! I hope you'll join me as a sponsor!

I decided to start off my tour with the Seattle Marilyn Manson/Hole concert, because I'm a dear friend of irony, and it was a full moon. What better place to witness Hole's talents than in Courtney Love's hometown, and that of most North American-based aliens?

Courtney was so sincere. Between songs, she donned flung flannel shirts, sighing, "Grunge is dead, guys." She oughta know.

Marilyn was resplendent, from the alien crutches drag to the various winged creations. The whole cartoon fascist number was very Killing Joke. The burning Nam June Paik crucifix? Brill! I declare MFL '99 to be a success.

Among my expenses are:
 • Round-trip airfare via South-West Airlines, \$228.

• Round-trip busfare, taking the 179 to downtown, with a transfer to the #8, \$2.50.

• Tickets to the concert, \$29.50 (plus a convenience fee of \$7.50)

• Meals, \$150.00

• Massage therapist, \$150.00

• Meal with massage therapist, \$150.00

• And even though a dear pal

put me up for a few days, my attorney, George "Spooky"

Megilla, required a four-star hotel room at the Ritz, due to his sinus problem, \$970.32 (mini bar, \$450.00)

But how, you're asking, do we raise funds? Moshing For Life™ participants get sponsors to provide a dollar amount per goal achieved. Among my goals achieved at the concert were:

• Hoisting over two dozen mosh pit teens where they soared above a sea of helpful hands (10 points each)

• Surviving a "bombing," cheerfully accomplished by some straight kids, who spotted me as "not a local." A bombing is when a kid hurls him or herself directly at you in an attempt to break your neck. (20 points)

• Breaking up a fist fight (30 points)

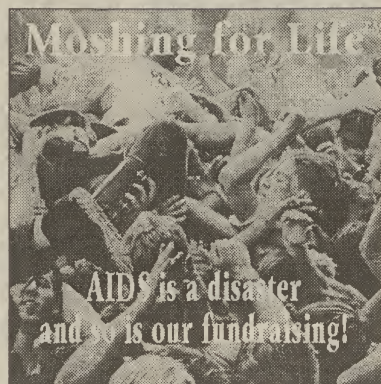
• A slight loss of hearing (no points)

• Through no intentions of my own, winding up backstage and watching the tiresome opening band, only to happily get ejected into the floor, since my ticket was actually for the third balcony. (400 points)

But my ultimate thrill was being hoisted by a small flock of shirtless Oregon state wrestlers (they'd missed the Portland show and drove all day), who assisted me in my interpretive crowd-surfing dance during the second chorus of "Use Once & Destroy," one of my favorites, and the theme song of my parent corporation, CarpetBaggers, Inc.

As I lay on my back, Key Arena's skeletal ceiling girds reminded me of a similar sight, being carted out of Saint Patrick's Cathedral on a stretcher almost 10 years ago. In the words of Ms. Love, "I saw God." This time, I got it from the helpful hands of all those sweaty kids.

Assisted over the barrier by friendly immense security guys in



bright yellow jackets, I stood below the stage and offered Ms. Love my middle finger, but in a punk, loving way (1000 points). I would have spat, but the product endorsement deal with Alotta Water fell through, (minus 500) and I was parched!

We would have stayed within my strict, very carefully thought-out budget, but since I didn't pack enough clothes, my Abercrombie & Fitch baggy pants (quite popular at the show) were shredded beyond use, and my Gucci earplugs were misplaced, so that leaves my profit margin at a whopping \$14! Hoorary! Group hug!

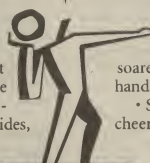
While the San Francisco show offered more bile from both artists (and a few extra songs — thanks, Courtney!), the talent in the pit lacked the experience and pep of the Seattle team. Who knew that SF audiences who pay to see a dyke wannabe and a straight drag queen could be so homophobic.

We've got some issues, kids. Spirit wasn't all that waned. Although in actuality my travel expenses amounted to two Muni dollars, my convenience fee and other expenses total \$40,000 in administrative costs. Darn.

Michael Petrelis is already wondering about what may appear to be excessive spending. I commend his endeavor to cleanse our cabals — oops — charitable organizations of financial abuses and come clean now with my 990: "Because I'm worth it!"

So cough it up for Moshing For Life™, an experience that can transform people and pockets. I look forward to seeing you at the next Moshing For Life™! Our motto: AIDS is a disaster, and so is our fundraising! ▼

Sports Complex



UCSF RESEARCHERS at San Francisco General Hospital are recruiting **HIV-POSITIVE PEOPLE** for clinical trials:

ACTG 325

Get Paid for Testing Interleukin-12

An 8-week trial to test rIL-12 safety and immunomodulatory activity.

Study Requirements:

- T cells between 300 and 500
- Stable on Antiretroviral Therapy for 8 weeks.
- There are other restrictions, call for details.

\$320 for completion of study

For more information call Mark Jacobson, MD at (415) 476-9296 x 407

ACTG 393

Have you had MAC?**(Mycobacterium Avium Complex)****You may be eligible to stop MAC medication****Study Requirements:**

- CD4 count is greater than 100
- On two MAC medications for over 1 year
- There are other restrictions, call for details

\$540 for completion of study

For more information call Carol Arri, RN at (415) 476-9296 x351

CLASSIFIEDS

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229165

The following person(s) are doing business as Ashbury Tours. 635 Ashbury Street #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Bill Ashbury President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/19/1999.
FEB. 25, MAR. 4, 11, 18 1999.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229163

The following person(s) are doing business as Lucel 300 Beale St. San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Judith Perkins, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/01/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/19/1999.
FEB. 25, MAR. 4, 11, 18 1999.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO: FILE NO. 301281

In the Matter of the Application of Bettina A. Kylie. For Change of Name. The application of Bettina A. Kylie, for change of name, having been filed in court, and it appearing from said application that Bettina A. Kylie has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Bettina Alexander Marchello. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in department X-4-206 on the 25th day of March, 1999, at 9:00 o'clock am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
FEB. 25, MAR. 4, 11, 18 1999.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO: FILE NO. 301328

In the Matter of the Application of Peter-Marc Damien For Change of Name. The application of Peter-Marc Damien, for change of name, having been filed in court, and it appearing from said application that Peter-Marc Damien has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Mugan Sozan Peter Schellin. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in department X-4-206 on the 30th day of March, 1999, at 9:00 o'clock am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
FEB. 25, MAR. 4, 11, 18 1999.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO: FILE NO. 301632

In the Matter of the Application of Manuel Jesus Cuenca For Change of Name. The application of Manuel Jesus Cuenca, for change of name, having been filed in court, and it appearing from said application that Manuel Jesus Cuenca has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Kathy Maria Cuenca. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in department X-4-206 on the 6th day of April, 1999, at 9:00 o'clock am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAR. 4, 11, 18, 25 1999.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229282

The following person(s) are doing business as Contagious Inspirations. 701 Pennsylvania Ave. #3 San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Scott Heidegger. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 02/24/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/24/99.
MAR. 4, 11, 18, 25, 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229220

The following person(s) are doing business as Jezebel's Joint/The Jezebel Ball. 510 Larkin St. San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This

business is conducted by an individual, signed Michael David Powers, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/22/99.
MAR. 4, 11, 18, 25, 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 228748

The following person(s) are doing business as Epiphany Floral Design. 18 Lansing St. #301 San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Craig Takeo Shishido, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/03/99.
FEB. 4, 11, 18, 25, 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 228285

The following person(s) are doing business as Equal Benefits Advocates 4130 Cesar Chavez #63 San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Charles Jeffrey Sheehy, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/19/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/19/99.
FEB. 4, 11, 18, 25, 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 228719

The following person(s) are doing business as, Personal Angel. 123 San Juan Avenue San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Roberta Dee Friedman, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/02/99.
FEB. 11, 18, 25, MAR. 4 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 228855

The following person(s) are doing business as, San Francisco Maz. 450 8th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a Corporation, signed Morteza Maroufi, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/05/99.
FEB. 11, 18, 25, MAR. 4 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 228667

The following person(s) are doing business as, Sky Mechanical Co. 100 Campbell Avenue San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual, signed King Tai Lau, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or

names on 02/01/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/01/99.
FEB. 4, 11, 18, 25, 1999.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229441

The following person(s) are doing business as, Mellotone Performance. 79 Clipper Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Albert Milton Sipp. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/01/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/02/99.
MAR. 11, 18, 25, APR. 1, 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229601

The following person(s) are doing business as, Aoyama International. 172 Haight Street Apt. #5, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Theresa Y.C. Kao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/05/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/05/99.
MAR. 11, 18, 25, APR. 1, 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229681

The following person(s) are doing business as, Lou's Pier 47. 300 Jefferson Street San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a Company, signed Glenn Meyers. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/09/99.
MAR. 18, 25, APR. 1, 8 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229680

The following person(s) are doing business as, Fly Trap Restaurant 606 Folsom St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a Corporation, signed Glenn Meyers. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8/7/93. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/09/99.
MAR. 18, 25, APR. 1, 8 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229806

The following person(s) are doing business as, A Exotic Pet Shop. 3412 Judah St. San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual, signed David A. Bannon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/15/99.
MAR. 18, 25, APR. 1, 8 1999

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services Request for Proposals #157

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS), in conjunction with the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), seeks proposals from community-based organizations and agencies to work with childcare resource and referral agencies to conduct outreach and provide assistance to license-exempt caregivers with special priority for proposals that target caregivers serving CalWORKS families with children (ages 0-5).

Each bidder must demonstrate familiarity with the opportunities and challenges involved in working with license-exempt caregivers and must collaborate with a San Francisco State University contracted childcare resource and referral agency in submitting a proposal.

Total contract amount not to exceed \$140,588. Contract period: 6/1/99 to 6/30/00.

RFP packet available between 9am - 5pm at DHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor after 1pm, 3/16/99. Pre-submittal conference on 3/22/99, 10:00pm, 170 Otis, 8th Floor. RESPONSE DUE DATE: 1:00PM, Thursday, 4/22/99; NO EXCEPTIONS. For further information, Call Esther Reyes at (415) 557-5864.

City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services Request for Proposals #158

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from individuals and organizations interested in contracting to provide early intervention and family support/preservation services to Asian families.

The contract will provide \$151,300 over the period from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2001. This contract may be renewed depending on performance of contractor.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor beginning March 16, 1999. Office hours are from 8 AM to 5 PM.

The Respondent's Conference will be held on March 31, 1999 at 9:00AM at 170 Otis, 7th Floor, SF, CA. For further information, call Joseph Huang at (415) 557-5181. Due date for responses is April 15, 1999 at 5:00PM.

City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services Request for Proposals #160

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from individuals and organizations interested in contracting to provide respite child-care services for families with children at-risk of child abuse and neglect.

The contract will provide \$632,000 (\$316,000 per year) over the period from 7/1/99 to 6/30/01. This contract may be renewed depending on performance of contractor.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor beginning March 15, 1999. Office hours are from 8 AM to 5 PM.

The Respondent's Conference will be held on April 5, 1999 at 10:00AM at 170 Otis, 8th Floor, SF, CA. For further information, call John Tsutakawa at (415) 557-5680. Due date for responses is April 15, 1999 at 5:00PM.

City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services Request for Proposals #159

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from individuals and organizations interested in contracting to provide intensive family reunification services for families involved with Family & Children Services.

The contract will provide \$246,000 (\$123,000 per year) over the period from 7/1/99 to 6/30/01. This contract may be renewed depending on performance of contractor.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor beginning March 15, 1999. Office hours are from 8 AM to 5 PM.

The Respondent's Conference will be held on April 5, 1999 at 9:00AM at 170 Otis, 8th Floor, SF, CA. For further information, call John Tsutakawa at (415) 557-5680. Due date for responses is April 15, 1999 at 5:00PM.

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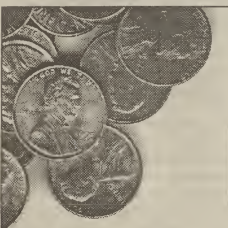
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STATEMENT FILE N0229806

The following person(s) are doing busi-
ness as, A Exotic Pet Shop, 3412
Judah St. San Francisco, Ca.
94122. This business is conducted by
an Individual, signed David A. Ban-
non. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names
on N/A. The statement was filed with
the County Clerk of the City and Coun-

ty of San Francisco, CA on 03/15/99.
MAR.18.25, APR.1.8 1999

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Date of Filing Application:
FEB 05, 1999

To Whom It May Concern: The
Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are:
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SOCIAL SERVICES

The Community of San Mateo AIDS Program is seeking experienced professionals for the following:

HEALTH OUTREACH WORKER
(Spanish Speaking)

Provide access to medical and social services, health outreach, support and case management for people with HIV/AIDS in the community. Requires automobile. Fluency in Spanish and English required. Full-time, temporary position. Submit resume to: Jonathan Mesinger, San Mateo County AIDS Program, 225 W. 37th Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403. FAX: (650) 573-2875.

HIV/AIDS BENEFITS COUNSELOR
(Spanish Speaking)

Duties include assessment of benefits needs, counseling and referral, participation in multi-disciplinary teams, assistance in filing applications for, or enrolling in, MediCal, SSI, SSDI, SDI, GA, ADAP, and other programs. Work at clinics in San Mateo and Menlo Park. Preference given to applicants with experience in benefits advocacy with diverse and low income populations. Knowledge of HIV benefits issues and fluency in English and Spanish required. Full-time, permanent position. For an application, contact Employee and Public Services at (650) 363-4343. Resumes not accepted. Deadline for applications is April 9, 1999. EOE.

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Deputy Program Director
Outreach & Organizing

STOP AIDS seeks individual to manage mobilization & outreach program. MA and/or 3 yrs experience in leadership/management. \$37-41K & bens. FT. Snd ltr, res, & 3 refs to ORSC, SAP, 2128 15th St., SF, CA 94114. Fax 415-575-0166. No Calls please.

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HIV PROJECT

COORDINATOR

Manages AIDS housing and information project: client assistance; program development; community networking; staff supervision; workshop presentations; grant, report writing. HIV service provision, computer proficiency, BA or equivalent. \$25,500-\$31k; benefits. Letter, resume to Personnel, Eden I&R, 570 'B' St. Hayward, Ca. 94541; fax 510-537-0986

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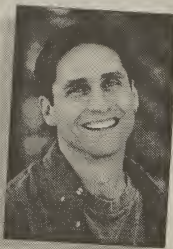
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Can COMBIVIR be taken with other medications?

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The safety of COMBIVIR is not expected to be different from the safety of EPIVIR and RETROVIR given separately.

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It's important to know that serious side effects can occur with COMBIVIR, such as a decrease in red and white blood cells and muscle damage. A buildup of lactic acid and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been reported rarely with some HIV drugs, including nucleoside analogues.

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Tell your doctor promptly about any side effects or other unusual symptoms you may experience.

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How should I store COMBIVIR Tablets?

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This provides a summary of information about COMBIVIR. If you have any questions or concerns about COMBIVIR or HIV, talk to your healthcare provider.



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What you see is not what you get
Illusion meets reality in 'Universal
Hitchcock' series opening at the Castro.
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Rock the boat
Mackey/Eckert's 'Ravenshead'
at Berkeley Repertory Theatre.
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No Love lost
Between Hole and
Marilyn Manson in SF.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

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THE RITES OF SPRING

OSCAR DISH: A YEARLY EXERCISE

by Matthew Kennedy

We know it's ridiculous. How can you compare Judy Holliday in *Born Yesterday* to Gloria Swanson in *Sunset Boulevard*? How about Ralph Fiennes in *Schindler's List* to Leonardo Di Caprio in *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*? Yes, the Oscars are back, and on the Lord's Day, no less. This year they've moved to Sunday, March 21, so that the truly sick among us can make it a weekend bender.

Perhaps George C. Scott was right, the Oscars are just a yearly exercise in who can out-hype who. Miramax, the powerful upstart of modern Hollywood, understands this better than anyone. Its aggressive campaigns for 1995's light-

weight *Il Postino* (forgotten before the house lights came up) and this year's appalling *Life is Beautiful* are triumphs of p.r. over substance. Both movies received multiple nominations. Then there were the years that *The Towering Inferno* and *Doctor Dolittle* were nominated for Best Picture. Or the year when everyone in *A Streetcar Named Desire* won except Marlon Brando.



Roberto Benigni
in *Life is Beautiful*

By the way, that movie was directed by Elia Kazan, who's getting a Life Achievement Award this year. Some folks think that's in bad taste. He ratted on many a Hollywoodian to the House Un-American Activities Committee and then was not so coincidentally given the greatest directorial assignments of the 1950s — *Panic in the Streets*, *Streetcar*, *Viva Zapata!*, *On the Waterfront*, *East of Eden*, *Baby Doll*, *A Face in the Crowd*, etc. His appearance is certain to be tense and possibly disruptive. He's been passed over for coronation by the American Film Institute, and now the Academy has decided to do some venerating, ruined lives notwithstanding. How would you honor a fine filmmaker who went to bed with Joseph McCarthy?

For all of Oscar's faults, the promise of tears ("the streets of heaven are too crowded with angels"), shocks ("Zionist hoodlums") and idiocy ("you like me!") is irresistible. So we sharpen our pencils, consult the tea leaves, and try to second-guess an august body of voters as disparate as Quentin Tarantino, Maggie Smith and Bob Hope. It's a fool's game. When an award is as old as Oscar, it gets ever more difficult to find unprecedented little quirks and oddities in the balloting, let alone predict easy winners. Just about everything strange and strangely noble

has already happened, from two nominations for one performance (Barry Fitzgerald in *Going My Way*) to Juliette Binoche edging out self-important cat-food hawker Lauren Bacall for Best Supporting Actress. Good taste is easy to recognize.

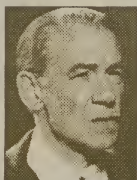
Twin Lizzies

Here's one bit of strangeness — two women are nominated for the same character (Queen Elizabeth, no less) in two movies. That's never happened in one year. Gloria Stuart and Kate Winslet were both nominated last year for their older/younger *Titanic* passenger, but that was just one (long) movie. Marlon Brando and Robert De Niro each won for their Vito Corleones, but their honors were for *The Godfather* of 1972 and *The Godfather, Part II* of 1974, respectively.

Here's another — call it revenge of the sophomores. Ten of the 20 nominated actors are on their second acting nomination. Only one of the second timers is in the Best Actor cockfight, Nick Nolte in *Affliction*, and he stands a good chance of winning. He's been lately celebrated as an effective workhorse, much as Clint Eastwood was a few years back for the unforgivable *Unforgiven*. Ian McKellen of *Gods and Monsters* would seem to be the other photo finish possibility for Best



Nick Nolte
in *Affliction*



Ian McKellen in
Gods and Monsters

Actor, but he's favored for different reasons. He's British, he's considered a great stage actor, and he is possibly the most out major acting talent alive. Oh, and his sly rendering of Hollywood gay recluse James Whale is a genuine joy to behold. Tom Hanks (*Saving Private Ryan*) seems a longer shot, if only because three Oscars in one decade is piggy even by Hollywood standards. That leaves the obsessively ingratiating Roberto Benigni of *Life is Beautiful* and the scary Edward Norton of *American History X* as outside possibilities. I'm still stewing over Norton's loss for his de-ranked choirboy in 1995's *Primal Fear* in favor of Cuba Gooding, Jr.'s obnoxious athlete in *Jerry Maguire*, but that's ugly old baggage.

Best Actress would appear to be a tighter race. Cate Blanchett breathed fire into her young *Elizabeth*. She

page 43 ►

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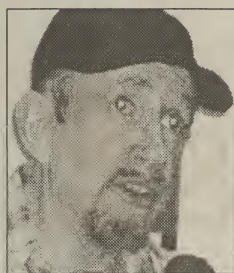
That was porn star and scandal veteran **Cole Tucker** at SF photographer/former supervisorial candidate **Greg Day**'s launch for his new book *Metamorphose* (Janssen) at A Different Light last Thursday. Tucker, prominently featured among the ero-to-photos, flew in especially for the event, which drew a full house of fellow photogs and scenesters.



Porn star Cole Tucker

You might remember the whole sordid tale from the British tabloids: CT was having a wild affair with a certain gay British MP, who took a collection of Tucker porno along with him in travels abroad. Then the hapless Minister's luggage was lost, leading foreign customs to discover the stroke-pics lurking among the rolled undies. Diplomatic immunity is not much good when your porn stash meets the harsh glare of the flashbulbs and the international press.

The Brit press tracked the sud-



Photographer Greg Day

denly famous porno star down to his Boston abode, where he gave an impromptu interview in his bathrobe on his front stoop, proclaiming his undying love for the cornered politico. Day, a cigar daddy's best friend, found a ready market for his Cole prints from checkbook journalists. And we got a juicy item out of it. Looks like everybody cashed in, each in his own adorable way.

Is there a Ford
in your future?

Pressing on: In an oddly mixed metaphor, the porn industry's paper of record *Adult Video News* writes about "the **Matt Drudge** of porn gossip" **Luke Ford**: "When it comes to reaching into the bowels of fiction and piling on the manure, [Ford's] site (www.lukeford.com) might best be described as a compost pile vying for the Pulitzer."

Naturally, we were intrigued. Though Ford's project is concerned mostly with straight porn, his output did produce a few warm smiles from these quarters. A familiar name in the index stopped us. Of black porn star **Mr. Marcus**, who was "born around 1974," *Adam Film World* writes: "Dark as the night, hard as a rock, this guy is a hardcore **Denzel Washington**. Equipped with a huge dick, a gorgeous physique and a low-key attitude." Sounds scrumptious, but we still won't trade in our own Mr. Marcus.

Things are looking up dept.: Ford writes, "Since Viagra, more

pretty boys are working porno," creating less of a need for plug-ugly stunt-fuckers, we guess. Isn't the service economy fascinating?

After the fall

Speaking of porn stars (and aren't we doing so rather a lot lately?), industry giant **Ryan Idol** is set to join the cast of **Ronnie Larsen's 10 Naked Men** at Theatre Rhino on March 24 for the final three weeks of the show's run. Since this is Idol's first appearance in town since his reported flight out of a highrise window in Florida, let's give him a big San Francisco welcome, shall we? And try to keep him on the ground floor.

Stage door

But there really is life after pornography. We attended the openings of both *Rent* and *Fiorello* last week, so we know the legitimate theatuh is thriving.

Our reaction: the former is overhyped, the latter, courtesy of 42nd Street Moon, is a little-known musical gem. We know at least a few fellow travelers who could sing a few verses of **Harnick/Bock's** "I Love a Cop" from *Fiorello* with feeling: "Can't you see me introduce him? You remember her, she detested you." You remember him, he arrested you."

What a dumpling

We're indebted to *Brill's Content* for the following: It seems *The New York Times* was fooled by a hoax from a humor website and printed the following translations in a story about how US movie titles are renamed for foreign release: "In China, for example, *Batman and Robin* became *Come to My Cave and Wear this Rubber Codpiece*, *Cute Boy*. And *Babe* became *The Happy Dumpling-To-Be Who Talks and Solves Agricultural Problems*."

It seems ABC's *World News Tonight* was equally gullible, picking up the false *Babe* title and running with it. Haven't those network boys heard of a little thing called fact-checking? ▼

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THEATRE

'Rent' at the Golden Gate Passionate youth

by Richard Dodds

Lucky as I felt to find myself third-row center at *Rent* shortly after it opened on Broadway in 1996, I just couldn't connect with the hugely hyped musical that left fellow theatergoers cheering. "Hair goes to hell" is how I described it then, but feeling like a prematurely grumpy old man for my indifference to the plight of these youthful characters. All I can say now about that earlier review is, "Never mind." *Rent* does rule.

Why should a road company viewed from a less advantageous vantage in the cavernous Golden Gate Theatre cause such a 180? I'd had a considerable change in expectations, of course, but more than that, I'd had a change in perception. The details of the sometimes lumpily obvious plot are not what *Rent* is about. It's about the passions of the characters, appropriate for a musical with roots in grand opera. And the cast that began a long run in San Francisco last week is passionate, to be sure, creating a crackling energy that knows no rest.

La Boheme is the opera that *Rent* creator Jonathan Larson used to fashion his mostly sung tale of young artists living on the edge in New York's Lower East Side. The parallels to Puccini's work are considerable, from the characters and their situations to the ironic Christmas setting and the abuse of their landlord. Even the light-my-candle adagio that initiates the central romance comes straight from Puccini.

But this is the mid-1990s, not the 1890s, and adjustments must be made. The poet Rodolfo has become rock musician Roger, while his roommate, the painter Marcello, is now the filmmaker Mark. Mimi, who seductively asks Roger to light her candle, is still Mimi, but she is now an erotic dancer rather than a seamstress. And more importantly, it is not tuberculosis that's fast closing in on her, but rather AIDS. It is a condition that afflicts several of the characters in this pre-protease world, causing them to live, feel, react, and love at an abandoned pace. Puccini's opera, of course, didn't deal with sexuality beyond its heterosexual constraints, but Larson did, without hesitation.

Larson's music is mostly in a pop-rock vein, but this label doesn't express the variety of sounds and moods that the onstage band and cast communicate with an often stunning force. "La Vie Boheme" and "Seasons of Love" are catchy take-home melodies that find a depth in the committed performances of the ensemble, while other songs ranging from calypso-pastiche to hard rock provide the principals with numerous individual showcases.

Latex maid

With a voice somewhere between Rosie Perez and the '60s folksinger Melanie, and a body made for latex, Daphne Rubin-Vega plays Mimi, the role she created on Broadway and is thrillingly recreating here. One of the highlights of her performance is "Out Tonight," a Pat Benatar-style rocker that Rubin-Vega delivers with hot-to-trot fire. Dean Balkwill plays Roger with grim countenance, and without the inviting leading-man looks of Broadway

original Adam Pascal (who, somewhat deceptively, is the poster boy for this production). But Balkwill manages to connect on his last-chance ballad "One Song Glory" and in the duet "Without You," performed affectingly with Rubin-Vega. Trey Ellett, as the perennial observer Mark, has an appealing bouncy energy that threads its way throughout the production.

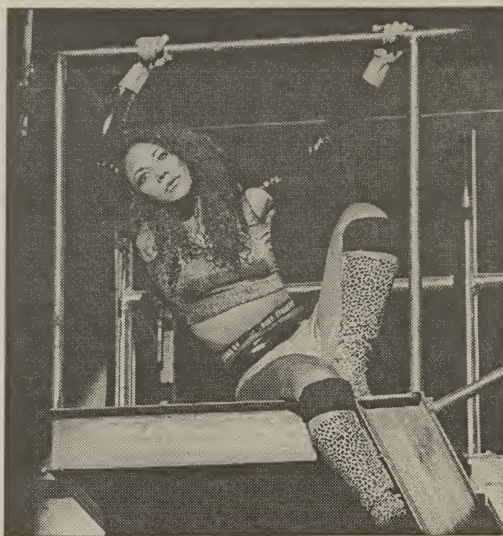
As the lesbian lovers Maureen and Joanne, Erin Keaney and Kamilah Martin tear up the stage with the in-your-face duet "Take Me or Leave Me," and Keaney also scores with a hilarious performance-art send-up. Shaun Earl, superb as the cross-dressing Angel, does fabulous hip hop in "Today 4 U," while his lover, Mark Leroy Jackson as the techno-wiz Tom Collins, creates a moody spell as he sings about his dreams of someday living in "Santa Fe."

The performers, perhaps more so when the musical first opened on Broadway, have a gritty pas-

sion that helps the material transcend the fact that this is a big-ticket Broadway attraction that has become a major money machine. The downtown sensibilities are further preserved in the creatively crude lighting and scenery, and in director Michael Greif's unslick staging that can be a little dopey at times.

Some of the problems are in the script, like the tired running gag about parents and phone answering machines, and there is the risk of titters when Mimi, given up for dead, pops up for a little more livin'. Larson presumably wanted to provide a happy ending, though it's clearly a very fragile one. He could never have imagined that his unexpected death just hours before the musical's first preview would forever provide the tragedy that he chose to avoid on stage.

We'll never know how else this emerging talent could have produced a moribund musical-theater form, but I'm glad that I finally got

Daphne Rubin-Vega as Mimi in a scene from *Rent*.

the chance to feel — as opposed to just observe — this super nova that can never be repeated. ▼

Rent is currently scheduled to

run at the Golden Gate Theatre through Aug. 1. Tickets are \$37-\$69.50, with \$20 tickets for the first two rows on sale by lottery two hours before each performance. Call 512-7770.

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'Single Black Female' Girl talk

by Richard Dodds

Lorraine Hansberry's brief literary legacy was remembered in *To Be Young, Gifted, and Black*. Lisa B. Thompson's *Single Black Female* provides something of a challenging sequel. The new play, making its debut at Theatre Rhino, could be subtitled *To Be Over 30, Unmarried, Educated, Middle Class, Culturally Confused, Bisexual, and Black*.

"Since Puff Daddy, Dom Perignon has gone so ghetto," remarks one single black female to her friend, who keeps four jelly jars among the Waterford in order to preserve the ethnic touch.

"It is the role of the black middle class to integrate the spas," the single black female remarks a little later, adding the rallying cry, "One massage at a time!"

As you can probably tell, Thompson weaves a good deal of self-effacing humor through what is essentially a monologue for two voices. The various cultural pulls that a member of a minority inevitably experiences — the lure of the majority's vision of desirability, the mixed feeling about one's own heritage, etc. — provide a winning format for the Bay Area playwright's considerable wit and wisdom.

Thompson manages to touch on a remarkably wide range of topics during the two-hour show. From yeast infections to Princess Di's funeral, from the gnarly men who hit on women to the horrors of the holidays, and from credit-card debt to the Gap, Thompson tosses off insights, zingers, and one-liners with abandon. "Pussy over 35 is a hard sell," says a character in one of the many moments when things that usually don't get talked about do get talked about.

Thompson's words are brought to wonderful life by Tia Hunnicutt and Comika Griffin, who are only identified as SBF #1 and SBF #2 but who expertly play a spectrum of characters: old, young, black, white, straight, gay, bi, and Oprah. This tapestry has been imaginatively and crisply staged by Colman Domingo.

There are plenty of serious observations in *Single Black Female*, but the production is never serious for very long. Thompson obviously believes that communication is best when the listener is at ease. Perhaps a better subtitle for the play would be, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Ben and Jerry's/When Their Cultural Pigeonhole Isn't Enuf*. ▼

Single Black Female will run at Theatre Rhino (in the upstairs Luna Sea space) through April 10. Tickets are \$12; call 861-5079.



Comika Griffin
and Tia Hunnicutt

Steve Savar

Flower power 42nd St. Moon's 'Fiorello!'

by Richard Dodds

The mission of 42nd Street Moon is to give a fresh hearing to "lost" musicals, a curious condition for a musical that was a critical and commercial success, and that won both the Tony Award and the Pulitzer Prize. That musical is *Fiorello!*, and this rare chance to experience both its songs and its script does suggest reasons for its relative obscurity in the provinces.

First of all, the 1959 Broadway musical was definitely a New York show, celebrating one of its own characters and steeped in references to the arcana of its politics. And remember, in 1959, *Fiorello!* La Guardia had only been out of office for 14 years, making him as current then to New Yorkers as DiAnne Feinstein's City Hall reign is to today's San Franciscans. But 54

years have now passed since New York had its Mayor La Guardia, and though certainly better remembered than Roger Lapham (the mayor of San Francisco in 1945, for those taking notes), it's likely that even New Yorkers now think airport rather than mayor.

The musical itself has weathered time reasonably well, though the horizons it was praised for expanding in 1959 seem a lot like the musical-comedy conventions that most writers these days are trying to deconstruct. But it's true there is but a hint of a traditional chorus line, while the songs by Harnick and Bock, whose next shows were the exceptionally tuneful *She Loves Me* and *Fiddler on the Roof*, avoid easy-listening tunes in favor of plot-specific compositions and novelty songs.

The book by Jerome Weidman and George Abbott first shows La Guardia as an idealistic lawyer



Bob Greene as Fiorello La Guardia

helping penniless clients before being elected as a crusading congressman who leaves office to fight in World War I. After the war, he's back in politics, trying to drive the corrupt Tammany Hall machine from power, and after a landslide defeat and the death of his wife, finally triumphing.

At 42nd Street Moon, this *Fiorello!* (seen at its final preview) began tentatively, and it wasn't

next page ►

Hot buns 'Butt Pirates of the Caribbean'

by Richard Dodds

Is it possible to buy a ticket to a show titled *Butt Pirates of the Caribbean*, and then sniff at its crude contents? After the Los Angeles-based comedy made its local debut last year as part of the San

Francisco Fringe Festival, a disgruntled theatergoer complained to the *Chronicle* that she felt "violated" when her boyfriend was enlisted for some audience-participation oral-sex simulation. "A form of rape," she railed.

If so, the crowd at Josie's Cabaret that greeted the troupe's return to the Bay Area must have fantasies of buccaneering crimes against nature, because the only thing that interrupted a sea of smiles were the waves of laughter. Whether being subjected to a tsunami of a spit take or just a little verbal abuse, the audience was ready to have its rogers jollied.

The show is a send-up, sort of, of pirate adventures, but it's really about having fun by destabilizing dramatic conventions, from oblit-



The cast of *Butt Pirates*

erating the fourth wall to pushing the edges of theatrical propriety. The cast enjoys breaking itself up as much as the audience, and even if the joviality sometimes seems pushed, the cast's high spirits are infectious. If a new actor fumbles his lines or another slips on the

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THEATRE

Wow, it's Wilma

by Deborah Peifer

When I moved to the Bay Area in 1990, the first local actor I noticed, and then started to look for in cast lists, was Wilma Bonet. I found her to be a consistently compelling powerhouse of a performer. She's currently in Marin Theatre Company's production of *Mere Mortals*, which makes this the perfect time to learn a little more about one of my favorite actors.

"I was born in New York City," Bonet explains, "and I always loved acting, even as a young girl. I failed the audition at the High School for the Performing Arts, and was told, 'You have a heavy Puerto Rican accent; you'll never be an actress.'" She was accepted at the Art and Design High School, where she took stagecraft classes and was cast in every show. "I was smitten with acting. Then my drama coach took me to see a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the actor who played Puck had a heavy Puerto Rican accent, much heavier than mine. I realized that maybe I could work as an actor." She went to the Fashion Institute of Technology, the fallback job, and became a fashion illustrator.

Arriving in San Francisco some 20 years ago with her (now ex-)

husband, she saw the Mime Troupe for the first time. "I started to do street theatre. I learned by watching others and by attending workshops. Then I went to a Chicano Theatre Conference in Mexico City. I saw so many different styles of theatre, and that's when I learned to play multiple roles. Throughout this time I was supporting myself with fashion drawing and working in an office. When

I was invited to join the Mime Troupe," she says, the triumph evident in her voice, "I finally quit my day job. I knew that [acting] was my calling. I had to do it."

Bonet spent seven years with the Mime Troupe, and has gone on to perform in theatres all over the city (yes,

that was Wilma Bonet playing four different roles in ACT's production of *A Christmas Carol*), as well as running workshops with the Latina Theatre Lab. Their current project is the creation of a play, based on the lives of the women in the group, called *Last Stop Ranchera*.

Bonet plays multiple characters in *Mere Mortals*, a collection of six short one-acts written by David Ives (*All in the Timing*). Bonet calls the piece "a series of lovely sketches — of ways to look at life. It's about not wasting time, about living life to the full, and of having beliefs to fall back on. The cast is fabulous, and the plays are truly funny. The play tells us, 'If

there's an opportunity, take it.'" Sounds like Wilma Bonet's life, and a lesson, with laughs, for all of us. *Mere Mortals* runs through April 11 at Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley. Call 388-5208.

This and that

Someone smart, Brendan Gill in *The New Yorker* I think, said that Eugene O'Neill would not be considered even a second-rate playwright without *Long Day's Journey into Night*. That play is so extraordinary, however, that it puts O'Neill into everyone's list of the best American playwrights. The play is the mother of all family dramas, and since we all had families of one sort or another, we can all relate to the power, the turmoil, the viciousness of this particularly toxic nuclear family. ACT's production runs April 1 through May 2 at the Geary Theatre. Bring a donation of peanut butter in plastic containers or canned tuna in water for Project Open Hand on April 8, and you can pay what you wish for your



Wilma Bonet and Will Marchetti in *Mere Mortals*

ticket. For tickets and information, call 749-2228.

Andrea Marcovicci's performance of the songs of Noel Coward at Osher Marin JCC was dynamite! She sang, told stories, and reminded us what an extraordinary talent Coward was, and she is. She'll be back next year, and because her shows always sell out, your best chance to see her is to subscribe to Osher Marin's *Singers and Songwriters* series. You can get an introduction to the series and the space when Debbie Gravitte

sings MGM songs on March 27-28. The theatre is located at 200 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael. Call 479-2000 for single ticket and subscription information.

Venue 9 continues its series in celebration of International Women's Month with highlights from its Women's Work series every Tuesday in March, including the sick, twisted and hilariously funny (my favorite combination) Margery Kreitman on March 30. All shows take place at Venue 9, 252 Ninth Street (between Folsom and Howard). Call 289-2000 for tickets.

It's a feminist commonplace that women have been and continue to be written out of history. The National Women's History Project in Windsor battles mightily to write women back into history. Their annual fundraiser, featuring gourmet food and wine, music and prizes, takes place at Paradise Ridge Winery in Santa Rosa on March 21. Choose a designated driver and journey north to celebrate women's lives. Call 707-838-6000. ▼

Fiorello!

◀ previous page

until about midway through the first act that the staged concert found a sustaining energy. But once the pieces coalesced, director Frank Coppola's production held attention through the final curtain.

Da mayor

Bob Greene, in the role created by Tom Bosley, ably suggests La Guardia, bringing over the course of the evening a depth to this pugnacious politician. While Stephanie Rhoads doesn't suggest a native of Trieste, she smoothly handles the role of La Guardia's first wife. Nor does Steven Patterson have an Italianate demeanor as political dealmaker Ben Marino, though he provides one of his gung-ho performances that have become a staple of 42nd Street Moon productions.

But Robin Steeves has just the right manner and approach for La Guardia's gal Friday, who, of course, secretly loves her oblivious boss. Susan Himes Powers also creates a winning portrait of a simple but feisty laborer who supports La Guardia but who marries one of his enemies. Bill Fahrner and Richard Pardini provide colorful work as La Guardia's aides, and Amy Cole delivers a lively cameo as a tap-dancing chorine.

There are a few warts on the La Guardia of *Fiorello!*, mainly a noble stubbornness, but it's basically a worshipful portrait that further distances it from today's more cynical sensibilities. A loving musical about Rudy Giuliani, David Dinkins, or Ed Koch? I think not. ▼

Fiorello! will run at the New Conservatory Theatre through April 4. Tickets are \$20 and \$22. Call 861-8972.

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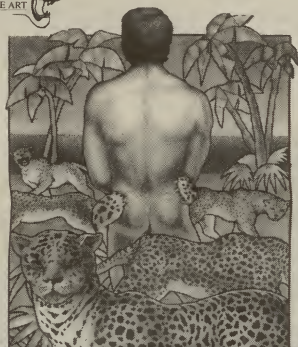
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Jet's set Yonfan's 'Beauty' opens

by Gary Morris

Yonfan made a mini-splash a couple of years ago with *Bugis Street*, a sweet sketch of a feature about Singaporean drag queen whores in the 1950s and their appropriately melodramatic lives. One of the attractions of that film was the director's pictorial eloquence; no surprise, considering he's a famous fashion photographer for *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar* and chronicler of the "beautiful people" of Hong Kong and China in well-regarded books like *China Image* and *A Chinese Portrait*.

But Yonfan's devotion to beautiful surfaces also works against him. The pacing of *Bugis Street* was often deadly, as if the director were lingering overlong on the faces of his creations at the expense of the story. Perhaps stylish characters like the arch, haute queen Drago forced the camera to linger, as if her elegant gestures and penetrating looks demanded attention. In *Bishonen!* [*Beauty*], Yonfan is similarly distracted by his handsome gigolos and winsome cops, but none of them come up to Drago's level, and the story is in the end simply too disengaged, too wistful, to work. This may be an occupational hazard for photographers who want to turn their talent for still lives into directing.

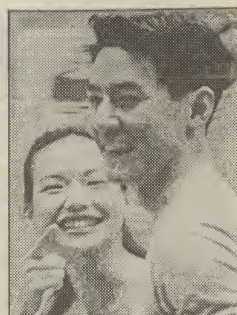
The story starts promisingly. It's based on a real-life scandal of some members of the Hong Kong police force who were discovered — thanks to a cache of ill-concealed sexy photographs — living double lives as gigolos and "models." In early scenes, we see a pair of cops — one an old hand, the other a scared novice — disrobing before the camera of a lecherous old queen. It's perhaps indicative of a certain slackness on Yonfan's part that he doesn't bother to make these cops credible; the alleged novice comes off like a drag queen in a uniform, his obvious pleasure at strutting his stuff barely concealed by nervous tics and shocked expressions.

The story connects the two worlds of cops and gigolos in its two main characters, who cross

into each other's worlds. Handsome, heartbreaking hustler Jet (Stephen Fung, a noted Asian teen idol) falls in love with Sam (Daniel Wu), a good-looking cop who's the essence of the dutiful son and all-around nice guy. Sam is Jet's unconscious redeemer; usually arrogant and self-centered and constantly chased after by men, Jet becomes pathetically lovestruck under Sam's indifferent gaze. He abandons the gigolo world and all his friends at the local whore-club where they hang out, in favor of mooning over Sam, who at first tries to ignore him. Of course, they finally do get involved, with tragic results when it becomes clear that Sam has some disturbing secrets of his own. Sam's clueless parents welcome Jet as their loner son's new best friend without suspecting his real intentions. His mother speaks volumes when she tells Jet she wishes Sam would show some spunk — "be just a little bad to be normal" — little knowing what her treasured boy is really all about.

The film moves episodically through its paces, introducing mysterious characters like a female friend of Sam's and an egotistical teen idol who seems to be a satire of every young male movie star in Hong Kong. That these characters ultimately remain mysterious indicates Yonfan's view of the world itself as a mysterious, unpredictable place where people randomly enter and exit each other's lives, but it does little to enliven a rambling plot.

As in *Bugis Street*, Yonfan



Shu Qi and Daniel Wu in *Beauty*

shows more than passing familiarity with a gay subculture, in this case Hong Kong's call boy business. While the male madam pontificates that "This is a business of love," the camera surveys a pack of screaming queens arguing and dishing and generally carrying on as they wait in the bar for their next assignment. Still, this is no indictment of anybody; in spite of the story's origins in a scandal, it never materializes here. The director doesn't judge his characters, whether cops or teen idols or gigolos or their patrons; he's more interested in capturing the fleeting moments of pleasure they can find with each other. He does this occasionally, especially in the film's shimmering images of characters — particularly Jet — wandering around the city at night or early in the morning, trying to make sense of a passion that's new to them. That such images can't quite rescue the film doesn't minimize their interest. ▼

Bishonen! [*Beauty*] opens
Friday, March 19 at the
Lumiere Theatre.

Butt Pirates

◀ page 36

wet stage, all the better, providing yet another target to rib.

The cast, which currently numbers 10, had a hand in writing the pliable script, and Philip McNiven created the songs that variously quote from and/or mock Andrew Lloyd Webber, MGM musicals, Gilbert and Sullivan, and Mel Brooks. McNiven also plays the narrator who sets up the story in a wonderfully physical sight gag before deliciously taking on the role of the titanic fey pirate king known as Sweet Checks.

In the story, the pirates have kidnapped the winsome Melesand (played in delightful burlesque by Matt Walker), sending her fiancé

Don Diego del Fuego Winnebago Leggoomyeggo Smith in hot pursuit. As Don Diego, the comically gifted Rick Batalla often serves as a kind of emcee, playing with the audience and even tweaking his cohorts. Meleney Humphrey, the only bona fide female in the cast, plays Melesand's slatternly sister with an endearing vulgarity.

In the end, we finally see the butt that gives the show its title, and even it has a few tricks up its slot. If you've ever wanted to see the expression "Blow smoke out your ass" come to life, this is your chance. ▼

Butt Pirates of the Caribbean will have final performances at Josie's Cabaret at 8 and 10 p.m. March 19 and 20. Tickets are \$15. Call 861-7933.

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Bitchy beautiful feuding monsters

Marilyn Manson and Hole at Cow Palace

by Adrian Roberts

For the most part, last Wednesday's Marilyn Manson/Hole concert was an incredibly mismatched bill — which was, of course, part of the fun. Granted, both bands *do* share at least a few things in common: extremely outspoken, enigmatic lead singers; a lyrical preoccupation with the conceits of fame, corruption, and alienation; and a perverse fascination with the idea of "Hollywood" on their most recent albums. The similarities end there, as evidenced by the wildly divergent ways in which each band approached this material live.

No one recognized this more than Hole singer Courtney Love, who frequently took potshots at Marilyn Manson, making derisive comments about their prop-intensive, over-the-top stage show. "Sorry we don't have any pyro," she said sarcastically. "It's sort of all about the music for us." The band then proved it by playing their current modern rock radio hit "Malibu," which, with its pop hooks and soaring harmonies, is an homage to the lush, late '70s "California sound" of such bands as Fleetwood Mac.

Performing in front of a projected backdrop of a Roman colonnade, Hole's set was pretty much gimmick-free, save for some glittery confetti and a shower of rose petals. Dressed in shiny black pants and bra, and a simple yet elegant sheer black gown, Love baited Manson again, stating, "I feel like a dork doing a costume change."

Instead, Hole concentrated on the music. "This is the story of my life," Love said, before launching into a ripping rendition of "Celebrity Skin," the title track off their new album. Its opening line, "Oh make me over, I'm all I want



Marilyn Manson, sporting the first of several costumes

to be," spoke volumes.

Much like Courtney Love herself, who transformed herself from junkie grunge queen to glamour-puss rock diva, Hole quelled their previous reputation for incendiary yet scrappy performances by turning in a solid, assured set. Given Hole's newfound sense of polish, it's not surprising that they chose to concentrate on their slicker, more recent material, the lone exception being 1991's "Pretty On The Inside."

Admittedly, no amount of gloss could cover the fact that Love can barely carry a tune. On Hole's more raucous numbers, such as the set opening "Violet," her trademark screech could have peeled the paint off the roof of the Cow Palace, and it worked beautifully. On more melodic songs like

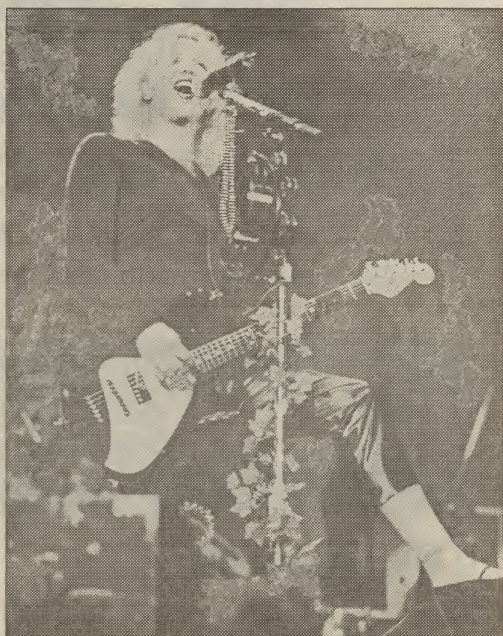
"Dying," her vocals were noticeably spotty. And at the end of "Doll Parts," she pretty much dropped out entirely, thus showcasing bassist Melissa Auf Der Maur's angelic back-up vocals.

Still, Love's charm showed through, and the band was obviously having a great time. Love teased the crowd, asking, "Do I owe anyone here money from when I lived here? I hear that all the time." Later, she confessed that someone had bet her \$1000 to get through the show without "sassing off." Given her sarcastic comments regarding Manson, it's doubtful she won the bet.

Main attraction

But after Marilyn Manson's set, one must wonder how much

next page ►



Courtney Love, in her trademark "foot up on the monitor" pose

OPERA

Sailor adrift

Berkeley Rep's 'Ravenshead'

by Stephanie von Buchau

As long as it doesn't call itself "opera," I have no quarrel with a high-tech extravaganza such as Peter Sellars' *Peony Pavilion* or the musical *Rent*. Entertainment, after all, is anywhere you can find it, from peep shows and tractor pulls to rock musicals and multi-culti historical necrophilia. Just don't call it opera and, in your enthusiasm, tell me it is going to replace *Faust* or *Carmen*. I don't even like *Faust*, but I have a strong objection to critics throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

There is no doubt that the art form we know as "opera" is dead. It's a museum exhibit now, but a very great and powerful one that needs to be curated in a more responsible manner than is delivered by the world's major opera houses and recording companies. (Imagine what would happen to the director of the Louvre if he let someone paint a mustache on the Mona Lisa. That's what ought to happen to opera directors who rewrite a score.) Yet we also need to support modern music theater. The mistake that apologists of "new opera" make is clearly outlined in the program to Berkeley Repertory Theatre's current production of *Ravenshead*, an "opera in two acts" by Steve Mackey and Rinde Eckert.

Luan Schooler writes that in the old opera, "music has precedence over text; the story exists to provide a framework for the music, and nothing should interfere with its exquisite delivery through the ears into the soul." This simplistic definition misses a few salient points — one, that operatic music must be vocal; and two, that composers for nearly 400 years have wrestled with the question of primacy: music or text. Still, Schooler gets one point absolutely right; the best operatic music goes straight to the soul.

It's unfortunate when program notes contradict the program, but

in the case of *Ravenshead*, this is exactly what happens. The one-man, two-hour play, written and performed by Eckert, is technically adroit, sometimes funny, and musically interesting at least in its accompaniment by the Paul Drescher Ensemble Electro-Acoustic Band. It is mildly entertaining, though it has repetitive slow spots, and it serves to highlight Eckert's manic energy, humor and physical skills.

Yet at no point does *Ravenshead* even attempt what real opera must: lift the listener's emotional response above and beyond what can be expressed by words, stage pictures or brilliant performances. It is annoying to have to repeat this, but opera can seem like a stupid, expensive, wasteful experience unless it produces the kind of euphoria that you see after a great Wagner, Mozart or, yes, even Puccini performance.

Log-rolling

Part of *Ravenshead*'s problem rests with the story itself, though a bad story or libretto doesn't necessarily mean a bad opera — read just the text to *Parsifal* or *Il trovatore* if you doubt that assertion. Eckert based his libretto, which is possibly too jokey for its own good — at least for a work that pompously claims to be about "ideas of self and truth" — on the true story of a megalomaniacal British businessman who attempted to sail solo around the world in 1968. His boat untried, his provisions inadequate and his sailing skills nil, he got lost in the South Atlantic and decided to cheat by constructing parallel logs. Finally, realizing he would be exposed, he apparently stepped overboard into oblivion.

Richard Ravenshead, the fictional name of the work's eponymous hero, is a braggart and blowhard. When, by the end of the show, he has descended into madness, the trip is short and uneventful. In other words, if you are already miserable, dysfunctional and unpleasant, with no moral

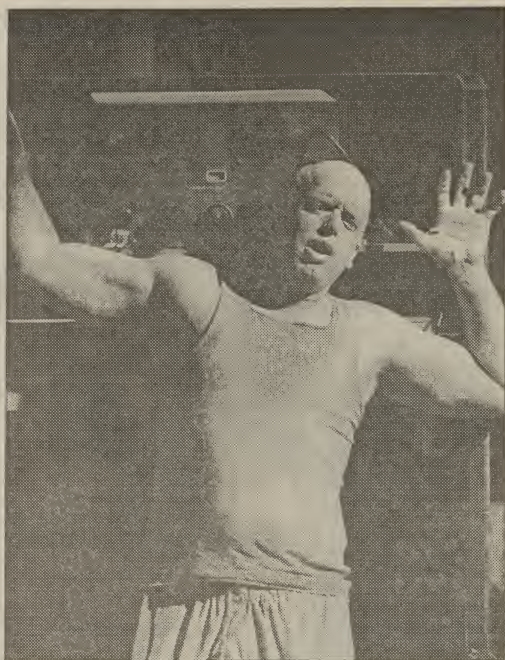
character to speak of and delusions of grandeur, your fall is not going to be tragic or even interesting. Oedipus we are not talking about. Eckert plays the blowhard and madman on the same note; he's funny but so over-the-top that the point at which he goes bonkers passes without a frisson.

Might it have had more punch if the music had been more "operatic?" We'll never know, since today's "opera" composers, Mackey included, are writing pretty tepid vocal stuff, mostly song-speech that does not compel the emotions of the listener. Once again, opera only justifies itself if the text must be sung in order to make the point. Walter Scott's Lucy pattering on about lost love is boring; Donizetti's Lucia, matching the flute note for note in her mad scene, breaks our hearts.

Mackey's bluesy, eclectic score is pleasantly wallpaperish, well-played by the inventive Drescher Ensemble (electric guitar, violin, bassoon, sax and electronic keyboard, percussion and drum kit). A lot of the time all Eckert does is declaim over the music. In case you care, this is not called opera but "melodrama" (spoken lines with musical accompaniment). Composers such as Beethoven and Mozart employed this style occasionally. Mackey is no Mozart, and Mozart did not need amplification.

Tony Taccone's production, in Alexander Nichols' coffin-like wooden boxes rigged with masts and booms on which the athletic Eckert climbs and swings, is smartly executed and fun to watch. I wouldn't dream of telling anyone to stay away from *Ravenshead*, especially if they enjoy slightly loopy theatricality. Just don't expect a musical catharsis. You go to the opera for that. ▼

Ravenshead runs through April 4 at Florence Schwimley Little Theatre in Berkeley. Tickets are \$24.50-\$35. Call (510) 845-4700.

Rinde Eckert in *Ravenshead*

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Marilyn Manson

◀ previous page

of Love's comments were so much sour grapes. It was obvious who much of the crowd was there to see, and Manson reveled in it, getting in his own subtle digs at Courtney. "Let me ask you all an honest question," Manson said. "How many of you are here to see Marilyn fucking Manson?" As the crowd erupted in thunderous cheers, Manson said matter-of-factly, "I thought so." He then mentioned, "I sure pity the older people on this tour... the graying mothers." For the most part, however, Marilyn Manson concentrated on sheer arena rock spectacle.

Love may have spoiled the surprise, but Manson's entrance on a crucifix made out of static-filled televisions was still one hell of an opener. The band then ripped into "The Reflecting God," as the lanky singer prowled around the stage like a demented insect, dressed in a G-string, feathers, and a black mesh bodysuit.

The first of five costume changes came during "Mechanical Animals," the title track of their recent album. Manson appeared on stilts projecting from both his arms and legs, reinforcing the

song's de-humanizing themes. The nearly acoustic "The Speed of Pain," brought yet another costume change — a leather jacket and fedora hat — along with a shower of confetti and a slower pace. This mood continued through their dark, crowd-pleasing cover of the Eurythmics' "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)," before the tune erupted into an industrial fury, the cross of TVs bursting into flames.

From there on, it was simply more, more, more, with nearly each song bringing about another costume change. There was the silvery black sci-fi get-up with an "easy-access" crotch, which Manson made ample use of during "Rock Is Dead" by frequently mooning the audience. On "The Dope Show," he dressed as a cop while changing the lyrics to, "Cops and queers live in San Francisco."

"Me and San Francisco have something in common," Manson proclaimed: "Drugs!" A huge blinking sign which read "DRUGS" descended from the ceiling as the band churned out the funky "I Don't Like The Drugs (But The Drugs Like Me)," which featured Manson's worst singing of the evening.

After dedicating the show to

the late Church of Satan founder Anton LeVay, Manson ended the set with a forceful trio of songs from 1996's *Antichrist Superstar*, including the title cut, during which the set changed to resemble a Nazi-like political rally, complete with Manson wearing a black suit and singing at a huge podium, while ripping pages out of a Bible. Although this same motif was used on last year's tour, it's effectiveness is so potent that it was worth recycling.

The only real disappointment in MM's set — besides the lack of an encore — was that they didn't do more material from *Mechanical Animals*, which is more multi-dimensional than anything the band has previously done. Still, the show was a good lesson in how important staging and costumes can be in pulling off a big arena rock show.

Although Hole turned in a great set, it did ultimately pale in comparison to Marilyn Manson. Still, San Franciscans should feel lucky, since Hole dropped out of the tour last Sunday. It seems that, despite publicists' assurance that their feuding was just "sh*tick," Marilyn Manson and Courtney Love really do hate each other. But at least that made for some good, dishy drama on stage. ▼

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Dangerous dualities

'Universal Hitchcock' opens at the Castro

by Tavo Amador

The conflict between appearance and reality is a consistent, unifying theme in most of Alfred Hitchcock's best work. The shy young woman who thinks she is gauche and dull is actually lovely and charming; the engaging stranger is really a psychotic; the crisp patrician beauty is in fact an earthy, passionate lover. In his finest films, many of which will be shown at the Castro Theatre's Universal Hitchcock series from March 19 through April 8, these contrasts are woven into the fabric of the plot, adding immeasurably to the suspense.

Producer David Selznik, fresh from his triumph in *Gone With the Wind*, summoned Hitchcock to Hollywood from his native England, where he had spent fifteen years directing many well-regarded movies, including *The Thirty-Nine Steps* (1935) and *The Lady Vanishes* (1938). Selznik gave him a formidable assignment: directing the movie version of Daphne Du Maurier's bestselling and haunting romantic suspense novel, *Rebecca*.

The young, almost unknown Joan Fontaine beat out several well-established actresses (including Loretta Young and Jean Arthur) to play the unnamed second wife of dashing, rich Maxim De Winter (Laurence Olivier). Right away, the audience recognizes that she is breathtakingly beautiful and warm, and understands exactly why De Winter wants to marry her. At the same time, Fontaine shows us that the character's insecurities and poor self-image make it hard for her to see herself clearly. It's a great performance, as fresh today as it was then. In his first American film, which won the 1940 Best Picture Oscar, Hitchcock established the pattern of showing the toll that disparate views of a situation or a person can take on individuals.

In the '50s, critics marveled at a new phase in Hitchcock's conflict between appearance and reality as he turned hitherto frosty, usually blonde, actresses into passionate, sexually aggressive women. Although born in 1899, Hitchcock's view of women was essentially Victorian: they were either licentious temptresses or dull madonnas. He admitted to a fascination with women who projected the quality of being "ladies in the

Tippi Hedren, Jessica Tandy, and Veronica Cartwright in *The Birds*

drawing room and whores in the bedroom," and frequently brought that fascination to the screen.

The first demonstration of this image-changing penchant actually came in the '40s, in two films starring the usually wholesome Ingrid Bergman. In 1945's *Spellbound*, her chilly clinical psychiatrist falls Freud over couch for troubled but gorgeous Gregory Peck. The following year, in *Notorious*, she surprised audiences as the wanton daughter of a Nazi living in Brazil who is redeemed by a devouring passion for Cary Grant.

In 1950, Hitchcock directed one of his worst received films, *Stage Fright*, co-starring one of the coolest and most alluring of Hollywood's femme fatales, Marlene Dietrich, and Jane Wyman. The duality here is the lie that the married Dietrich's lover (Richard Todd) believes about the circumstances of her husband's murder. Although not a good movie, it's a great guilty pleasure, enjoyable for Dietrich's caustic, narcissistic, scene-stealing performance. Her renditions of "La Vie En Rose" and Cole Porter's "The Laziest Gal In Town," especially written for her, add immeasurably to the entertainment.

Man after man

Part of the fun in watching Hitchcock's films lies in the mechanics of seduction. Although normally of the female-luring-the-male variety, in 1951's *Strangers on a Train* it is implicitly male-chasing-male. Robert Walker's charming Bruno Anthony is clearly after the hunky but dim Farley Granger, and not just so each can murder someone on the other's behalf. It's unlikely that most audiences of the time realized how homoerotically charged the initial meeting on the train is, but gay filmgoers then must have smiled knowingly.

Hitchcock was back to straight seduction in 1954, directing Grace Kelly, whom critics would praise as his quintessential blonde, in two films. In the first, *Dial M for Murder*, playing husband Ray Milland's intended murder victim, she is beautiful and resourceful, but not particularly passionate. The film itself is cleverly plotted and keeps the viewer guessing as to whether or not Milland's scheme will be discovered.

Kelly had already shown signs of a dangerous icy fire for John Ford in 1953's *Mogambo*, melting over macho Clark Gable. But in *Rear Window*, she is stunningly steamy. The conflict between per-

ception and reality is everywhere in this Hitchcock masterpiece. Stuck in a wheelchair with a broken leg, James Stewart seems helpless, but isn't. As he spies on the apparently ordinary lives of his neighbors, he discovers that one has committed a murder. And as his fiancée, the patrician Kelly revels in the role of temptress and seducer, convincing us that Stewart is the most desirable man in the world — not an easy task.

He directed Kelly again in 1955's *To Catch A Thief*, and her pursuit of Cary Grant is among the most stylish in film history. While on a picnic, she asks him if he "Would you like a breast or a leg?" theoretically referring to chicken. As she did with Stewart, Kelly seems to dare Grant to join her in exploring new ways of mutual satisfaction, promising a libido that will easily match anything he has ever dreamt of, and then some. As usual in Hitchcock's work, nothing is shown graphically, which allows the audience's imagination to take over, making it that much more charged and personal.

The power of Hitchcock's subtle style becomes evident in contrasting the cerebral, self-possessed Kelly with her contemporary Marilyn Monroe's blatant approach to seduction. Monroe seems naive about her physical attributes, but in reality knows they're all she's got to offer. She's the passive one-night-stand or brief affair; Kelly's the longterm relationship that will keep getting better.

Day tripper

Doris Day was Hitchcock's next blonde in *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1955), but he did not turn her into a temptress. Instead, she is the weepy, hysterical mother whose child has been kidnapped. Husband James Stewart has to deal with her overwrought emotions while working to get their son back. Filmed in Morocco and London, with a suspenseful finale in Prince Albert Hall, this is an entertaining remake of Hitchcock's 1934 British film of the same title. (Television fans of the old *Addams Family* series will spot a pre-Morticia Carolyn Jones as one of Day's London friends.)

The following year, Hitchcock and producer Hal Wallis went to New York to see Broadway sensation Carol Haney starring in *The Pajama Game*. In something right out of *42nd Street*, Haney broke her leg and unknown understudy

next page ►

FILM

Cate Blanchett in *Elizabeth*

Oscar dish

◀ Arts cover

convincingly transformed herself into the virgin queen right before our eyes, and would make a deserving winner. Fernanda Montenegro of *Central Station*, blessed with a face of a million stories, is fine in the Brazilian movie as earthy and unaffected as its star. Gwyneth Paltrow glows like Botticelli's Venus in *Shakespeare in Love*, and she does drag credibly. This one role officially distances her from the pack of blondes (Heather Graham, Laura Linney, Alicia Silverstone, Renee Zellweger, Cameron Diaz) currently chugging toward stardom. Emily



Fernanda Montenegro

Watson, as the gifted cellist of *Hillary and Jackie*, got into the nominee's camp by flawless musical miming and the worthy dramatic device of multiple sclerosis. Meryl Streep's doomed frau of *One True Thing* gives her an eleventh flirtation with Oscar. How about an endowed chair with Streep's name on it courtesy of the Academy, and she can have a nomination every year whether she's in a movie or not?

Full support

The supporting actress party is heaps of fun this year. Kathy Bates, the "gay lesbian" political disciple of *Primary Colors*, was a hoot and a heartbreaker in an ambitious but unsatisfying film. Rachel Griffith played second fiddle with a flute in *Hillary and Jackie*. Brenda Blethyn, the very big voice of *Little Voice*, reinvented "blowzy" and "shrill" while laying claim to the Shelley Winters Evil Mother Award. A chinless Lynn Redgrave as the sourpuss Old World maid of *Gods and Monsters* nearly stole the show simply by cracking eggs and making faces. But I'd lay an Oscar on

Ben Chaplin, John Cusack, and Jim Caviezel in *The Thin Red Line*

Bates or Judi Dench for her Queen Elizabeth in *Shakespeare in Love*. It's a brief role, truly supporting, and she makes her every nanosecond a treat of rare deliciousness.

The supporting actors are a dreary lot. Perhaps James Coburn, as Nolte's inhuman dad in *Affliction*, could get together with Brenda Blethyn and take over Hell. Robert Duvall has got little up his sleeve at this stage in his career except respect, which is enough to earn him a nod for the courtroom yarn *A Civil Action*. Geoffrey Rush made a sweet buffoon in *Shakespeare in Love*, but his malevolent opportunist in *Elizabeth* should have been recognized instead. Billy Bob Thornton's performance of an unstable yokel in *A Simple Plan* got him an undeserved nod. That

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Tom Hanks in *Saving Private Ryan*James Stewart and Kim Novak in Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo*

Hitchcock

◀ previous page

Shirley MacLaine replaced her, flubbing a bit in the difficult "Steam Heat" dance number. It didn't matter. Wallis signed her to a longterm contract, and Hitchcock cast her, John Forsythe, and Mildred Natwick in the black comedy *The Trouble With Harry* (his dead body keeps popping up in unexpected places.) It turned out to be the biggest critical and financial flop of his career.

He recovered with 1957's *The Wrong Man*, in which an innocent Henry Fonda is charged with murder. His blonde wife is Vera Miles, but there's little humor or sexual hijinks in this somber film.

The following year, Hitchcock directed one of his most celebrated and complex movies, *Vertigo*, starring the beautiful, zaffig Kim Novak as the object of James Stewart's obsessive passion. Nothing in this film is as it seems. Under Hitchcock's direction, Novak's passivity proves destructive, while Stewart's monomaniacal pursuit of her results in unforeseen tragedy. (Imagine what Hitchcock would have done with the era's kinkiest blonde, Gloria Grahame, in the Novak role.) Shot on location in San Francisco, even the city's natural beauty has a menacing underside.

Back at the top of his form, Hitchcock took Eva Marie Saint, the earnest Oscar winner for 1954's *On The Waterfront*, and in *North By Northwest* turned her into his hottest patrician blonde since Kelly, who had abandoned Hollywood to become Princess of Monaco. Saint is under orders from master spy James Mason to pursue, seduce and deliver Cary Grant, believed to have vital cold-war information. The pursuit and seduction are classic, and watching Saint fall in love with her intended

victim adds to the terrific suspense in one of Hitchcock's most stylish and entertaining thrillers.

In 1960's *Psycho*, Hitchcock turned Janet Leigh, who'd been a minor, wholesome leading lady for more than a decade, into the treacherous Marian Crane. Like Kim Novak in *Vertigo*, she will have cause to regret her beauty, especially when mamma's boy Anthony Perkins gets a look at her. This inexpensive film, which also starred a blisteringly hot John Gavin, Martin Balsam, and Vera Miles as Leigh's loyal sister, turned out to be Hitchcock's biggest box-office hit of the postwar era and is his best-known movie.

He would never have such a financial success again, although 1963's *The Birds* came close. His "discovery" for that film, Tippi Hedren, took the title role in next year's *Marnie*, when the residents of Monaco pressured their Princess Grace not to return to Hollywood and the movies. Hedren, while no Kelly, worked well with luscious Sean Connery in this twisty tale of kleptomania.

Hitchcock next used a chilly redhead, Julie Andrews, opposite a fever-inducing Paul Newman in 1966's *Torn Curtain*, a mildly entertaining cold-war suspense film, enhanced by Berlin locations. But the film was not in *North By Northwest*'s league. She would be his last significant leading lady, and his film output after this one slowed dramatically.

Topaz, *Frenzy* and *Family Plot* are all minor works, with occasional touches of mordant humor. The last does feature Karen Black and the delicious Barbara Harris, but fails to develop either one's potential. ▼

The Universal Hitchcock series begins Friday, March 19 with *The Birds*, and runs through April 8 at the Castro Theatre.



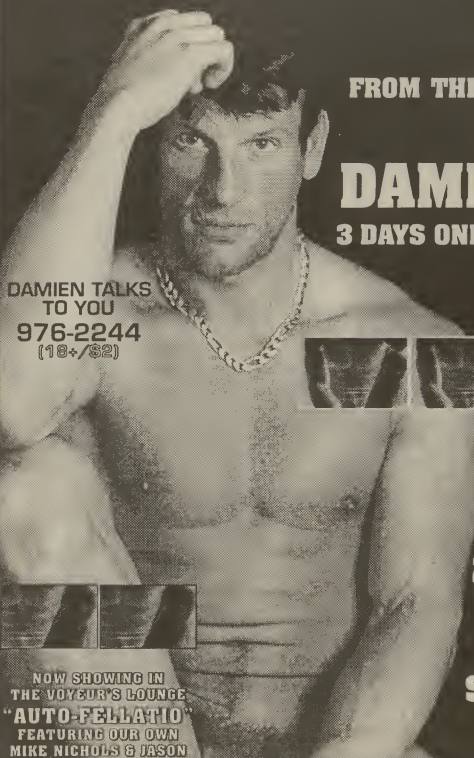
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Boy's life

by David Lambie

Allan Stein by Matthew Stadler; Grove Press, \$22.

Allan Stein is Matthew Stadler's fourth novel and perhaps his best. The at-first unnamed narrator has fled his native Seattle, leaving behind a Gordian knot of troubles. Fired from a teaching job for bedding a fifteen-year-old Turkish boy, he persuades a sympathetic friend, a museum curator named Herbert Widener, to let him chill out in Paris by pretending to be Herbert. The ostensible purpose of this elaborate ruse: finding an elusive art treasure. The treasure consists of a series of nude drawings by Picasso of the teenage nephew of Gertrude Stein. Allan Stein — model, boxer, soldier — was a golden boy whose youth full of promise soon curdled into the bloated body of a dissolute middle-aged man. By the time the narrator, known to his Parisian family as "Herbert," stands at the ruins of Stein's tomb, he has recalled his own adolescent seduction at the hands of a man he feared was his mother's lover, and is busy seducing another mother's son.

As in his previous fiction (*The Sex Offender*, *The Dissolution of Nicholas Dee*, and *Landscape: Memory*), Stadler pursues the themes of Nabokov with always just a touch of Kafka. His boy-loving narrator seeks not gay boys waiting to come out, but rather butch-appearing sports-obsessed "straight" boys whose still developing bodies suggest the feminine — suggest the qualities of Humbert's beloved nymphet.

In *Lolita*, Humbert finds himself consumed by the pursuit of an icon whose culture he detests: "Mentally, I found her to be a disgustingly conventional little girl. Sweet hot jazz, square dancing, gooey fudge sundaes, musicals, movie magazines, and so forth. ... If some cafe sign proclaimed Ice-cold Drinks, she was automatically stirred, although all drinks everywhere were ice-cold. She it was to whom ads were dedicated: the ideal consumer, the subject and object of every foul poster."

Stadler's narrator ironically travels across a continent and an ocean to discover a boy blessed and cursed by a fondness for things Americana, the first four letters of which spell a French adjective meaning bitter or galling. The boy, Stephane, the girlishly soft and pretty fifteen-year-son of his Paris hosts, is an avid basketball player. When the boy is excluded from a park pickup game by rougher boys, the narrator challenges him to a game of one on one.

"Stephane tried to guard me but he wasn't very good at it. When I moved forward he moved away and it was a simple matter to get to the basket and make a layup. When he had the ball I stayed close to him with my hands on his body. I have no idea whether it was legal, but it gave me pleasure to feel the shape of his hips and ribs and the way his

body moved. He said I was fouling him... 'American basketball is much more physical,' I explained. 'Contact is allowed.' We went on playing American basketball, and his hands felt good on me. I pulled my clinging Metallica T-shirt up to wipe sweat off my face and he watched. My clothes stank fully now. Once he landed poorly and began to fall and I wrapped my arms around his back and held him. 'Thank you,' he said."

When he's not with the boy, the narrator often follows him, aping his younger self shadowing his mother's "lover." That his detective work now comes under the masquerade of "Herbert" — his disguise certified by another man's professional status, credit cards and passport — makes the ruse both extra delicious and

more than a little bit creepy.

In his previous novel, *The Sex Offender*, Stadler's narrator was a convicted molester of a twelve-year-old boy whose punishment consisted of *A Clockwork Orange*-like brainwashing — the treatment administered by the Kafkaesque character of the Doctor-General Nicholas Nicholas. In *Allan Stein*, the narrator gets out of Dodge ahead of the police, but not without a humorous aside about the irony of his situation. While spying on Stephane, waiting for the boy to retrieve his bike and ride home from school, the narrator spots another suspicious looking man hanging out in the same cafe.

"I thought he might be some kind of predator, lurking near the lycée to victimize kids and lure them into films. My school back home was in a constant uproar about this kind of threat and had organized a block watch of parents and staff to harass every unknown man who lingered near the school. Any man who paused, or was not in some kind of uniform, would at once be assaulted by a concerned and furious den mother shoos him away, which is why it was so handy to actually be a teacher there."

French hues

Allan Stein greatly benefits from being set mostly in the Paris of both the '90s and early '70s. Stadler's earlier books were mostly situated in a mythical, almost nameless city that was Seattle, but with almost a suffocatingly Eastern European murkiness that was at times as oppressive as the city's actual climate. This book resonates with the rich urban tapestry that is Paris — where the description of park basketball can exist cheek-by-jowl with a memory of Camus.

While Stadler's earlier books might have scared off less ambitious readers with their almost religious air of postmodernist literary concerns, *Allan Stein* is a very reader-friendly feast. While his Paris family serves up plump braised artichokes lovingly stuffed with walnuts and goose liver, Stadler gives readers an equally lovely meal with three deliciously succulent subplots complimenting the narrator's pursuit of

FILM

Cabaret oblivion



The *Harmonists* tells the true story of a German singing group in the '30s, modeled after an American a cappella group of the time, which becomes a big hit on the international concert tour circuit. The Comedian Harmonists are played by (males, left to right) Ben Becker and Heino Ferch, among others. German theatre star Ulrich Noeten, far right, makes his film debut.

Although three out of six members are Jewish, the group's phenomenal success blinds them to the reality around them — namely, the rise to power of Hitler, just then hitting the pop charts. Director Joseph Vilsmaier shows the rise and fall of the Berliner ensemble in a film opening Friday, March 19 in San Francisco. ▼

Stephane. This narrator dices and splices his own identity as joyfully as John Belushi's old samurai delicatessen. In the course of the meal, readers get to sample tantalizing mouthfuls of debates about French versus American culture, the role of the teacher in a young man's life, and questions such as whether boy-lovers can be considered gay, or whether they merely lust after girls with cocks.

The shortest and apparently most meticulously researched of his four books, *Allan Stein* shifts gears as seamlessly as today's multi-plot films. And Stadler even manages to have fun with his own deconstructionist frame of mind when, at the start of the novel's first great sex scene (the one with the young Turkish boy Dogan), he advises readers: "Those of you who can't stomach any more of this sort of thing can skip ahead to page 47, where the narrative resumes."

Most readers will skip this advice. The sex scenes are a feast in themselves, being at the same time erotic, fashionably trans-

gressive and mostly definitely unapologetic. Nabokov, writing in the repressed '50s, focused more on the symbolic threat posed to an Ice-Cold culture by the mere knowledge of "unhappy, mild, dog-eyed gentlemen, sufficiently well integrated to control our urge in the presence of adults, but ready to give years and years of life for one chance to touch a nymphet." Stadler's narrator lives fully in the Clinton '90s, where no taboo goes unmentioned or unacted upon. The acts between boys and men in

this book are fully consensual, but no less disturbing or ambiguous for being freely chosen. The boy's feelings are ultimately unknowable.

"At home the actual boy lay upon his bier, attended by a virgin silence, dumb and rustling in his sleep — his nipples, soft as goose-down, occasionally pressed beneath a pulsing thumb, the thrum of blood through his neck and wrists, hips akimbo, boxers pushed down in front for a hand that holds his cock while he dreams." ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Maria Mardian

Other-minded musicians

Not long ago, I experienced my first Other Minds music concert, and came away dazzled by performances of great artistry and originality. Served up for a crowd of black-wearing, super-sophisticated music aficionados was a bracing blend of acoustic and electronic sounds, all deliciously different from the usual concert-hall fare. I felt oh-so-cultured being there.

Now you, too, can get that feeling, as the **Other Minds V** music festival begins on Thursday, March 25 at Fort Mason Center's Cowell Theater.

Sure, it'll be a lot different than, say, the Hole/Marilyn Manson spectacle I witnessed last week, but that's precisely the point: Once you've beheld the antichrist, it's nice to be able to calm down, settle into a comfortable seat, and experience music that works more on your mind than it does on your body, and that doesn't devour your soul and spit it back out at you. What Other Minds concerts lack in fireworks and volume, they make up for in heady intellectualism, if that's your cup of tea (or your snifter of cognac).

Attendees at the three-day festival will be treated to high-caliber, thought-provoking concerts featuring World and United States premiere performances. Among the composers taking part are Linda Bouchard, Mary Ellen Childs, Luc Ferrari, Alvin Lucier, Julian Priester, Sam Rivers, António Pinho Vargas, and Errollyn Wallen, along with the toy-piano virtuoso Margaret Leng Tan. Many of them will perform their own works.

Fleshing out the offerings are several guest musicians, including pianist Gloria Cheng-Cochran, the MC Band directed by Mary Chun, the exciting CRASH ensemble, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, and the Other Minds Ensemble.

If you take it all in, you'll experience everything from electronic/ambient compositions to jazz saxophone and trombone, chamber music, percussion ensembles — and even a cacophany of music boxes.

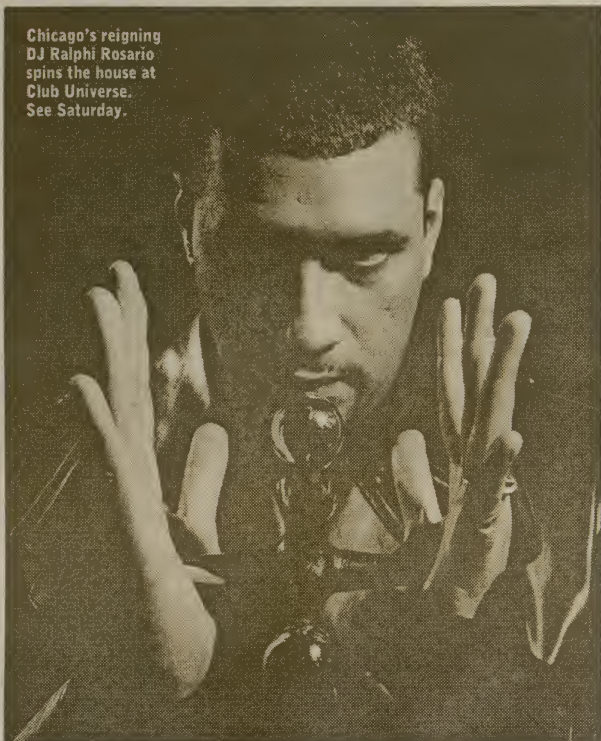
Particularly intriguing is the work offered by celebrated French composer Luc Ferrari on the occasion of his 70th birthday. He creates instrumental and electronic music, often with breathlessly erotic narratives.

Then there's composer/choreographer Mary Ellen Childs, who has her percussionists rolling around on wheeled chairs and skates.

Unlike other music festivals devoted to certain genres — Celtic, jazz, rock, etc. — Other Minds is eclectic, experimental, and cutting edge. It's not bawdy, but it's got brains. And it won't make mush of yours. ▼

Other Minds V runs March 25-27 at Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center. Tickets are \$18 per day (or all three days for \$45). Call the Fort Mason Center Box Office (415) 441-3687 to order tickets by phone. Performances begin at 8pm (preceded at 7pm each evening by pre-concert talks with the artists).

Chicago's reigning DJ Ralph Rosario spins the house at Club Universe. See Saturday.



Fri 19

Cowell Theatre

Author, playwright and public-radio personality David Sedaris (*Naked; Barrel Fever*) brings his incisive wit and outrageous satire to the stage for a limited engagement as part of the Solo Mio Series. He'll read new work from his diaries, essays, and commentaries. \$22. 8pm. Thru 3/21 (times/ticket prices vary). Fort Mason Center. Tix: City Box Office, 392-4400.

Outlook Video, CityVisions channel 53

The Vocal Jazz ensemble of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, along with Artistic Director Dr. Stan Hill, offer a sneak preview of their upcoming jazz/blues concert featuring Broadway diva Nell Carter. The program airs as part of "Outlook Video," the Bay Area's queer entertainment video magazine. 5:30pm. CityVisions cable channel 53.

The Plush Room

"Triple Play," a showcase of three top-notch Bay Area singers. Featuring Lisa Peers, Willis Moore, and Amy McClurg. With musical direction by Brandon Adams and Christopher Winslow. Tonight and tomorrow night only. \$15 cover. 8pm. 940 Sutter St. (btwn. Leavenworth & Hyde). Reservations: 885-2800.

Yerba Buena Center

Screening: "America is Hard to See," a documentary by Emile de Antonio focusing on the convergence of politics and American youth in the late 1960s. \$6 (\$3 students). 8pm. Screening Room, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. (at Third). 978-2700.

Victoria Theatre

Final performances: The San Francisco Lyric Opera presents Bizet's *Carmen*, directed by Frederick Winthrop,

fully staged, sung in French with English supertitles. \$20 (\$15 seniors/students). 7:30pm. Also on 3/20 @ 7:30pm and 3/21 @ 2pm. 2961 16th St. 641-9927.

Josie's

"Butt Pirates of the Caribbean," a musical comedy. \$15. 8pm & 10pm. Also on 3/20. Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint, 3583 16th St. (at Market & Noe). 861-7933.

Intersection for the Arts

Deke Weaver performs his comedic play, "The Crimes and Confessions of Kip Knutzen: A Hockey Way of Knowledge," co-directed by Jayne Wenger and Jim Cave, with live music by Mark Growden along with Bob Davis. \$10-\$14 sliding. 8pm (7:30pm Sundays). Thru 3/28. 446 Valencia St. (near 16th St.). 626-3311.

Theatre Rhinoceros

"SBF: Single Black Female," playwright Lisa B. Thompson's comic take on finding the right man, or woman, in an urban '90s environment. Directed by Colman Domingo. 8pm. Thru 4/10. 2926 16th St. (at Luna Sea, upstairs from Theatre Rhino in the same building). Tix: 861-5079.

Theatre Rhinoceros

Held over: Ronnie Larsen's *10 Naked Men*, a comedy about prostitution in Hollywood. The men let it all hang out. Yum! \$20-\$25. 5pm & 8pm (Sun. @ 3pm & 7pm). Thru 3/28. 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Magic Theater

"BORDERscape 2000," presented by La Pocha Nostra in collaboration with Circuit Network. The third in a performance trilogy by Guillermo Gómez-Peña and Roberto Sifuentes. It's all crazy and fun. \$25. 7pm. Thru 3/26. Fort Mason Center, Bldg. D. Tix: 441-8822.

Sat 20

First Congregational Church, Berkeley

Gay, Mexican recorder virtuoso Horacio Franco and the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra perform works by Vivaldi, Corelli and others. \$29-\$40. 8pm. Dana St. & Durant Ave., Berkeley. Tix: (415) 392-4400.

Alternative Family Project

Jim e Sparkle Pants and Triscuit take a fundraiser for LI, a faerie injured in a car accident who needs funds to pay large medical bills as he relearns walking, talking, etc. The event will be a performance/sharing and potluck party, plus a healing ritual. Bring ready-to-eat potluck items and objects for an altar. \$10 suggested donation. 8pm. 425 Divisadero, Suite 203A (btwn. Oak & Fell). Info: Jim e at 431-4304 or Triscuit at (510) 653-3849.

Harvey Milk Institute

Class begins: "Passing the Torch: Intergenerational Storytelling Workshop," conducted by George Birimisa. Open to all; people under 25 & over 45 strongly encouraged to attend. \$40 suggested donation (no one turned away for lack of funds). Co-sponsored by New Leaf's Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE). Five Saturdays (thru April 24); 1-3pm. Classes held at Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th St. Info/enrollment: 552-7200.

Community Music Center

Bay Area members of the National Association of Composers USA present "Composers Can Play Too," in which they perform their own and each other's music. \$5/\$10. 8pm. 540 Capp St. Info: (650) 367-1683.

Club Universe

Acclaimed Chicago DJ and remix artist Ralph Rosario hits the decks, spinning house music from midnight to morning. Rosario has remixed sounds by INXS, Pet Shop Boys, Gloria Estefan and others. \$12 cover. 21+ w/D. 9:30pm-7am. 177 Townsend St. (at 3rd). Info: 974-6020.

Sun 21

Osher Marin Jewish Community Center

Gay, Mexican recorder virtuoso Horacio Franco and the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra perform works by Vivaldi, Corelli and others. \$29-\$40. 5pm. 200 N. San Pedro Rd., San Rafael. Tix: (415) 392-4400.

Venue 9

Mad Magda's "Mysterium," a vaudeville for the new millennium, featuring performances by dance troupe Kunststoff, haunting songstress Omewenne, contortionist Suzy Ming, the amazing saws of Jackie Jones, Glamamore, Jo Ann Evangelista, magic, and much more. Hosted by Mad Magda. A "Q Cabaret" event. \$10. 8pm. 252 9th St. (btwn. Folsom & Howard). Reservations: 289-2000.

The Eagle Tavern

The Stop AIDS Project hosts a beverage benefit with erotic-art auction and raffle, with all proceeds benefiting the organization's efforts to reduce HIV-transmission and lessen the adverse effects of the HIV epidemic on the community. All invited. Auctioneers include Daddy Alan Selby and Don Thompson. \$7. 3-6pm. 398 12th St.

Fort Mason Festival Pavilion

The Academy of Friends (AOF) hosts its 19th Annual Oscar Night Gala fundraiser, benefitting many Bay Area HIV/AIDS service providers. This event is the second largest Oscar party in the country. \$150. Tix/info: call 995-9890; or surf the AOF Website at aofcharity.org.

Howard Thurman Ritual Center, Oakland

"Techno Cosmic Mass," a blending of Western liturgical ritual with ecstatic music and dance, urban shamanism, multimedia imagery, Eastern and indigenous spiritual elements, creating a postmodern form of worship. Led by visionaries such as Mimi Dye, Joanna Macy, Vicki Noble, Matthew Fox and a host of artists, musicians, storytellers and poets. Presented by the progressive University of Creation Spirituality. \$5-\$10 suggested. 7pm. 1933 Broadway (near 19th St. BART). Info: (510) 835-4827, ext. 10.

Asian Art Museum

Screening of *Frozen*, a film by Wu Ming ("No Name"), shot illegally in the People's Republic of China, then smuggled out to the U.S. It tells the story of Qi Lei, a 23-year old performance artist who creates a series of mock suicides. In conjunction with the exhibit "Inside Out: New Chinese Art." \$7 museum entry (\$5 seniors; \$4 youth). 2pm. Golden Gate Park. 379-8879.

Old First Church

The SF Concerto Orchestra performs the SF premiere of Derwyne Hsieh's *Concerto for Marimba and Violin*, featuring Roger Wiesmeyer on piano, Mauro Correa on guitar, Rick Shinozaki on violin, and Luanne Warner on marimba. They also will play Bossa Nova music, plus selections by J.S. Bach in celebration of his birthday. \$9, \$7, & \$5. 7pm. 1751 Sacramento (at Van Ness). 474-1608.

tions by J.S. Bach in celebration of his birthday. \$9, \$7, & \$5. 7pm. 1751 Sacramento (at Van Ness). 474-1608.

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Mt. Diablo upper-loop hike. Weather permitting, we'll see the greatest expanse of panoramic views in California. It's a moderately strenuous 8-mile hike with a 2,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet at 8:45am under the big Safeway sign at Market & Dolores St. Carpool cost is \$21, to be shared among passengers. Club info: 487-6410.

Mon 22

Noh Space

Theatre of Yugen and Harupin Ha present "Thunder Body," Butoh theater with Koichi Tamano and Jimmy Nakagawa. Part of Yugen's Monday Night Series spotlighting multicultural artists. \$8.50. 8pm. 2840 Mariposa St. (at Project Artaud, btwn. Florida & Alabama streets). 621-7978.

Minna Street Gallery

Sprocket Ensemble performs, with singer/songwriter Cindy Rae and Theremin player Lorelei David. An evening of live original music with animation. \$10 (\$7 students). 7:30 & 9:30pm. 111 Minna St. 681-3189.

Josie's

Open-mic comedy night, hosted by Danny Williams. 8pm. No reservations. Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint, 3583 16th St.

Tue 23

Bethany United Methodist Church

The SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band presents "Way Out West," showcasing music from the Wild West, conducted by Jadine Louie. Includes Copland's *Red Pony*, D. Gillis' *Tulsa*, Jan Williams' *The Cowboys*, selections from *Oklahoma*, and *The Magnificent Seven*. Original "spaghetti Western" paintings by Sergio displayed. Free. 8:15pm. 1268 Sanchez St. (at Clipper). 554-0402.

MCC

Penny Nixon and Kent Brintnall host Queer Sexual Ethics, featuring special guest Eric Rofes speaking on "Gay San Francisco in the 1970s: An Evening of Memories and Story Telling." Free. 7-9pm. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. No reservations.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

"Take Action: Legalizing Lesbian and Gay Families," an educational panel sponsored by Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, National Center for Lesbian Rights, and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. With panelists Jean Johnston, Kate Kendell, and Jennifer Pizer. Free. 7-9pm. 290 Dolores St. (at 16th).

Larkin Hall

Two events. First, at 1pm, the 9th AIDS Theater Festival presents "G's Dream," a short piece written and performed by Youth Action Project Theater Group. Directed by Lisa Carver. Afterward, audience members join a panel of reviewers to discuss the performance. Second, at 6:30pm, LLEGO California presents the 6th Latino/a AIDS Theater Festival Kick-off Show, "Jesus & Friends," a concert featuring Aimee

Eliza Perkins dances at Venue 9 in Footloose's Women's Work Series. See Tuesday.



Miyako, Shirley Tubens, John Steiner, and others. Bill Graham Civic Auditorium. Info: Hank Tavera, artistic director, AIDS Theater Festival, City Clinic Annex, 554-8436.

Harvey Milk Institute

Class begins: "Queer Stand Up Comedy" with Maureen Brownsey. Learn to use storytelling and characterizations to develop your own comedy routine. \$150. Six Tuesdays (thru 4/27). Location: Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th St. Info/enrollment: 552-7200.

Venue 9

Footloose continues its Women's Work Series, in honor of International Women's Month, with performances by Kerry Reid ("Gaslighting"), Eliza Perkins ("Proxy Vitae"), Annie Dugan of *Le Pamplemousse* ("The Co-Dependent"), and Annie Larson ("Flying Home"). \$6-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 252 Ninth St. (at Folsom). 289-2000.

Noh Space

Theatre of Yugen offers "Onion," the second installment of the new "Ink Boat" project, a Butoh influenced performance trilogy conceived by Shinichi Koga. \$10-\$12. 8pm. 2840 Mariposa St. 621-7978.

Wed 24

7th Note Showclub

Scrumby Koldewyn presents "The Untamed Stage," a cabaret revue featuring Arturo Galster, Helen Shumaker, Kim Fowler, David Bicha, Beni Ocker, Chesty Baker and others in an evening of song, dance, and sexual hijinks. \$15. 8pm. Also on 3/25, 915 Columbus Ave. (at Lombard). 820-3217.

Larkin Hall

The 9th AIDS Theater Festival presents three events. First, at 11am, "Stocks & Blonds: Planning for the Future You Never Thought You'd Have," written, directed and performed by Tom Swift. Second, at 12:30pm, "Mary Go-Round," written and directed by Dear Diva. Third, at 7pm, "Last Kiss/The Assassination of Federico Garcia Lorca," written and performed by Luis Oropeza. At Bill Graham Civic Auditorium. Info: Hank Tavera, 554-8436.

Bethany United Methodist Church

Motherlode, an all-woman band, performs original contemporary folk music from the group's latest release, *Circle in the Sand*. The four

bandmembers began playing together 18 years ago in the Pacific Northwest. \$9-\$15 sliding. 7:30pm. Clipper & Sanchez. 647-8393.

Esta Noche

LLEGO California presents a 6th Latino/a AIDS Theater Festival event: "We Will Survive: The 10th Anniversary Safe Sex Show," starring Alexis Miranda, Empress XXXIII and friends. 10:30pm. 3079 16th St. (near Mission BART).

A Different Light

Jan Clausen reads from *Apples and Oranges: My Journal Through Sexual Identity*, a memoir by a lesbian writer who fell in love with a man. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Thu 25

The Stud

Klubstitute Kollektive presents "Dueling Sequins," a night of very tired, old-school glamour queens. Emceed by Nikki Starr and Joan Jett-Blakk. With DJs Ren & Quest. Featuring Birdie Bob Watt, Ruby Toosday, Grand Negress Godiva, Dee Dee TV, Russell, Tallulah Bankheist, Barbie Q, Demanda Man, and many others. \$3.98 (free be-

fore 11pm). 11pm-3am. 9th & Harrison. Info: 331-1500, ext. 3438.

Josie's

Opening night: Tom Orr's one-man show, "Sweet Parody!" He says: "This is a show to celebrate the fabulousness of me." With comic retakes on classic Broadway showtunes, plus a penis puppet. Birdie-Bob Watt accompanies on piano. \$12 (\$10 seniors/students). 8pm & 10pm. Thru 4/17. Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint, 3583 16th St. (at Market & Noe). 861-7933.

Club Eros

"Sex & Speed," a harm-reduction community forum sponsored by New Leaf's Men's Drug Treatment Program. Bring questions and concerns to this panel discussion. 7:30-9:30pm. 2051 Market St. (near Church St.).

A Different Light

Readings of erotica from *Hot Off the Net*, an anthology of Internet porn (gay, straight, and otherwise). With Russ Kick, Mary Anne Mohanraj, and Elizabeth Terry. Free. 7:30pm.

Club-I Internet Cafe

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) presents a Digital Queers (DQ) Initiative meeting, "Stepping into the 21st Century: Learn how to become a better technonactivist." 7-9pm. 850 Folsom St. (btwn. 4th & 5th). Info: GLAAD Interactive Media Director Loren Javier at 861-2244.

City Lights

Book release party for Viggo Mortensen's *Recent Forgeries* (Small Art Press). Mortensen, perhaps best known for his film roles (including Gus Van Sant's *Psycho*) is a poet and photographer. He will appear in person to read from his works. Free. 7pm. City Lights Booksellers, 261 Columbus Ave.

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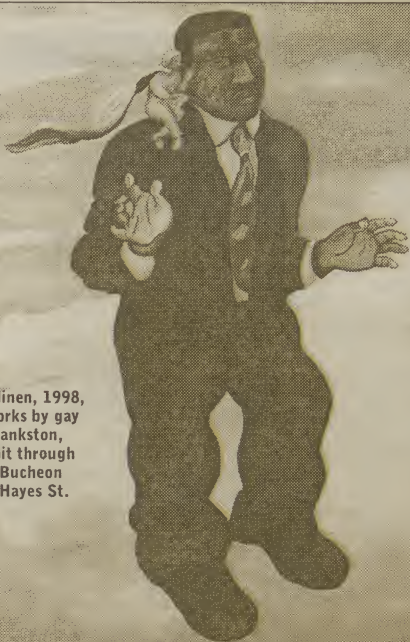
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Dusk, oil on linen, 1998, one of the works by gay artist John Bankston, now on exhibit through March 30 at Bucheon Gallery, 540 Hayes St.



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Werner wins it all!

by Mister Marcus

Until at about 2330 hours last Friday night, March 12, Werner Tillinger was Mr. Edge Leather 1999. Then, after tallymaster Tim Wong delivered the results of the judges' voting to Int'l. Mr. Leather Tony Mills, Werner Tillinger was declared Mr. Leather of San Francisco 1999.

Bedlam ensued in the house. Only minutes earlier, BJ Cavnor (Mr. Powerhouse Leather) had been named the first runner-up; Glennon Sutter (sponsored by Stompers Boots) was the second runner-up.

Club Townsend was standing room only for the 21st edition of Mr. San Francisco Leather, and out-of-town titleholders were on hand to see who the competition from San Francisco would be in Chicago next May.

It was also made known by Audrey Joseph and Jerry Roberts that this was the end of their long journey as part of the production team of the Mr. San Francisco Leather contest. It had always been a labor of love for them, that earned them accolades from voting members of the Inter-Club Fund. For three years in a row, the production they helped create had been declared the Most Outstanding Leather Contest.

Earlier in the program, Vern Stewart was on hand from Washington, D.C. to present the Peter Austin Memorial Award to Keith Truitt, who was aghast at the honor. At his citing of various individuals as his impetus for volunteerism, including especially IML '85 Patrick Toner, the audience roared its approval.

Later on, the Mr. SF Leather Committee garnered a tumultuous ovation when they announced that they had chosen Tim Wong as the second recipient of the Unsung Hero Award. It was all for his unselfish devotion, loyalty, generosity and deep involvement, not only with the leather community, but with other segments of the LGBT community. Last year, the inaugural of the



Mr. San Francisco Leather 1999, Werner Tillinger, flashed a smile as he displayed his leather title vest (donated by the Leather Zone) last Friday night, March 12, at Club Townsend.

award went to Warren Cave.

Between the contestants' appearances, entertainers pleased the crowd. The "opening number," magnificently emceed by IML Tony Mills, included all the contestants plus the entertainers. Favorable applause greeted the Lollipop Guild, The Church Lady, and Dana Adkins. Let no attendee say they didn't get their money's worth!

It was truly a night of leather pride and enchantment. Seven stalwart men competed for the title. Most spectators and kibbitzers agreed that deciding the outcome was not an easy job for judges Dan Hughes, Shadow Morton, "Mama" Reinhardt, Mario Torrigino, Bob Goldfarb, Peter Fiske and outgoing Mr. SFL Stephan Edwards. But everyone admired them for carrying out the task with honor.

In his stepping-aside speech, Stephan graciously recognized everyone who had been instrumental in making his year with the title a sterling one. His final official task was to place the gold medal around Werner's neck. In

doing so — and in handing over the vest created by Fran Frisch and donated by ever-generous Gabrielle of the Leather Zone — Stephan passed the title on to Werner, inviting thunderous applause.

Needless to say, Eric Weinmann of the Edge joined his contestant on stage for photo ops with various leather dignitaries, including Steven Byrd, last year's Mr. Edge.

All the contestants had their supporters in the audience — all loud and vociferous for their favorite man at each appearance.

The audience was a pastiche of all types of San Franciscans. Among the attendees were Emperor TJ and Empress Sheba; members of the Board of Directors of the AIDS Emergency Fund; representatives of the G&L Historical Society (the recipient of contest proceeds); the SF Pride Committee; the Stop AIDS Project; the SMMILE Board of Directors; and other groups too numerous to mention.

The whole affair epitomized former IML Jeff Tucker's slogan: "Better Together." It was a night in which leather and feathers mixed amiably along with all other sorts of identities in our wonderful L/G/B/T community.

After the contest, it was party time in the Castro as well-wishers and the merely curious descended upon the Edge Bar, where a gigantic celebration took place. It was the second time in the past few weeks that victory cheers have resonated through Castro Canyon. And how sweet it was!

As for the winner, Werner is set to represent San Francisco's leather community at the International Mr. Leather contest in Chicago on Memorial Day weekend, which means lots of preparation. May he fare well!

Meanwhile . . .

Halfway across the country, at one of the few leather bastions in the Midwest — the Dixie Belle Saloon in Kansas City, Missouri — organizers saw a record crowd turn out on Saturday night, March 13 for their annual contest.

They imported some heavy hitters to judge the eight-contes-

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EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, March 18

The Millennium Bare Chest Calendar selections will be half complete when Mr. June 2000 gets chosen tonight at the Powerhouse. The action begins at 2130 hours, and the judges are Emperor T.J. Istvan, Paul Tucci and Doug Harrison. Win \$100, fame . . . and maybe a new husband? Just six more spots to fill after this.

Bear movie night at the Lone Star, at 2000, with a \$6 beer bust and the film, "On Your Knees." It's an exposé of evil practices within the Catholic church. It's a benefit for PAWS. Hmmm. Knees and paws. Is there a connection?

Weekend, March 18-21

In Atlanta, it's the International Master & Slaves competition, with a whole weekend of fun, frivolity, leather shopping, and more fun.

In Albuquerque, the Mr. and Ms. New Mexico Leather competition takes place all weekend at the world famous Ranch Bar.

Friday, March 19

Exiles of SF workshop, "All About Anal," by Carol Queen; doors open 1930 to 2000 at The Women's Bldg. \$3 for members; \$5 for guests. For more info., call 487-5170, or click on their site: www.TheExiles.com.

Free and anonymous HIV testing at 933 Harrison, 2000-2200. Call 863-HEAD for details.

Saturday, March 20

The Onyx Club and the Cell Block Bar present the Mid-American Leather Man & Woman contests. Winner goes to DC in April to compete for the national titles. If you're in DC, you might want to check out the Men of Discipline, who hold their uniform night at the DC Eagle tonight.

Bears of SF beer bust at the Lone Star, 1500-1900. Only \$7 with raffle tickets to benefit the Aurora Dawn Foundation.

Sunday, March 21

At 0400 this morning, Jito Presents hosts another "Aftershock" dance party at 715 Harrison St. until 1100 this AM. \$20 adv.; \$25 door.

Stop AIDS Project hosts the Eagle beer bust, from 1500-1800, with the Cal Eagles MC furnishing the food and an auction. Only \$8.

Wednesday, March 24

Leather Buddies tonight at 933 Harrison. You know the rules: no cologne; boots, leather and you will be sniffed. Call 863-HEAD.

SF Leathernecks gather for a rubber and latex informal show. Want to join in the fun? Call 437-0883.

Thursday, March 25

They'll be looking for Mr. July 2000 on the Millennium Bare Chest calendar tonight at 2100, at the Powerhouse. Heading into the home stretch for contests. Win \$100, fame, dates . . . a divorce maybe?

PORN

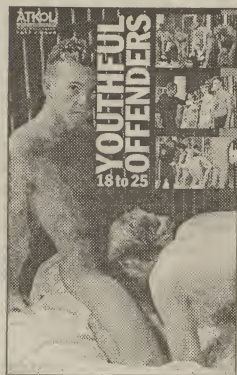
Rock of ages 18-25

by John F. Karr

Just like that cult favorite Ingmar Bergman, porn director Hank C. Wood has a little repertory band of players that he reuses film to film. Quite a few of them have jumped from Woods' projects into bigtime porn, though none have gone on to something as meaningful as Burt Bacharach's musical version of *Shangri-La*, like Liv Ullmann did when she stepped over Ingmar's body on her way to fame. But with cast members like Ben Damon, Frank Parker, Jeremy Cooper and Maleek Brown, Woods has some hot talent in his movies. They'd be swell for something like, say, a musical biopic of the Bee Gees. Just think of the solidly *zaftig* Frank Parker filling out those tight white pants the guys always wore. Though the brothers Gibb never showed any basket at all (well, they're British), you can bet Frank would.

The burly Parker has gone on to star in both Titan and Hot House videos, Jeremy Cooper (renamed Dean Rodney) tears up the screen in Plain Wrapped's *Dr.'s Orders*, while Ben Damon, Maleek Brown and Brad Phillips have gone on to more glamorous vehicles (well, actually, Phillips came from starring vehicles to work for Wood, but that reverse trip is another story — and anyway, there's still some wood left in Phillips for Wood).

There's another quality Wood shares with Bergman: although you have a good idea what's going on in their movies, you can't always tell exactly. Bergman's excuse was that he was working in another language. But Wood just doesn't seem to be paying attention. Despite his background in porn (Wood directed the first safe sex video, *Inevitable Love*) and his years of experience as an author, magazine editor, and lyricist for gay musicals, he shows little finesse as a film crafter, tripping up on simple storytelling and editing concerns. His videos are clumsily put together. One pet peeve of mine: Cast members' names aren't displayed with their photos, so you can't tell who the players are unless you already know them. Color quality is usually washed out enough that its heat is removed, sound recording varies radically in decibels and audibility, and music can be inartistically applied. More damaging is that Wood's exposition and continuity



usually seem to have been derived from instruction manuals translated from the Japanese. People answer phones that haven't rung. Key lines and character relationships are garbled. Viewer identification is limited by the sketchy or nonexistent character background offered. Worse, in potentially delicious sex scenes, the editing is nervous, striking out suddenly as if the director had some visual Tourette's Syndrome.

Even so, Wood rose above these hallmarks to deliver some hot, uninterrupted sex in two previous videos, *Too Many Tops* and *F Train to Castro*. They came through with the sex.

Too Many Tops, in which Dino Phillips and Todd Stevens found true love despite their both being tops, had some juicy scenes, with foreplay, long takes, and a sense of wit aiding our enjoyment. *F Train to Castro*, although clumsily laid out, was a satire à la *The Women*, in which the advice and interference of jaded Castro residents nearly scotch the long-standing union of Frank Parker and Austin Black. Despite eight ineffectual, meandering minutes before the first sex scene, several of the video's couplings are long and involving. Parker has a good time with beefy Josh Perez, whose unique asshole sports an escalated rim which grips Parker's fat cock tightly. Even better are the bouts in two scenes featuring a blond babe playing a hustler, who pumps the jism out of Jeremy Cooper, and then does his professional best on a client played by Ben Damon. The video's finale features a tot who has risen to fame as Virgil Sainclair in Jocks' *Sit Tight* (an in-depth review of this happy pic is coming soon). As the straight cousin visiting Black,

he nearly begs to be brought out, and his climatic three-way with Black and Parker has stirring moments, even though the scene's continuity is jerky.

Box jitters

Wood's latest video is *Youthful Offenders*. It can't be said that Wood's on a roll here. First, here's a jaundiced note on the temper of the times: the manufacturer of the video's box was so afraid of the title's pedophilic implication that he insisted on the qualifying subtitle, "18 to 25."

The video has a good premise — the kids are incarcerated at The Institute for Youthful Offenders because they would be at risk in a general prison population. The Institute is a queer prison, and there's nothing for the kids to do but make out all day, and happily service the accommodating guards. Sadly, the viewing experience is pretty frustrating. The guards — Parker, the blond hustler from the last video, and Phillips again — are stereotypically sadistic instead of the benevolent daddies who could have inspired the inmates' devotion. And the editing is totally frustrating. There's the dimly judged attempt to intercut a romantic scene with a lustful one, to the detriment of both, with *The Love Theme* from *Youthful Offenders* repeating its first four bars with maddening frequency. And even the better scenes, one with Parker and pig-boy, sloppy-slurper Cooper, and a three-way with Damon and the unnamed blonde hustler/guard, are edited by mixmaster. Four new inmates get better acquainted in a group jerk-off that's more of a blind man's bluff, a shower sequence is devoid of sensuality, and a wrestling scene is so shapeless it nearly brought me down.

Ebony-skinned Maleek Brown makes his debut in a laundry room tryst with the lascivious Cooper, and it's a beaut. Brown, a handsome, sturdy 19-year-old with a gorgeous cock, is a dancer with a local company. Dancers always have this kind of stamina, and this kind of butt, too. It's a star-making turn, in which Brown is well-matched by Cooper, who hints at the mischievous salaciousness he'll display more fully in *Dr.'s Orders*. I could jerk off to his, if I wasn't jerked back so often to the romance scene.

Indeed, I could jerk off to the premise of *Youthful Offenders* alone, and it's a pity that the video rarely lives up to it itself. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ page 48

tant competition. Assuming the honors were Jill Carter, Joseph Bean, Int'l. Mr. Fantasy Tim Kernan, Mr. Int'l. Rubber Thomas Smith, and Mr. Okla. Leather '98 Roger McConnell, who joined with Roger Collins, the historian for the KC Pioneers MC.

Frank Nowicki worked his emcee magic, and when the votes were tallied, Michael Cook of Shawnee, Kansas took the title. He'll compete at IML next May. The man is described as "hot looking," and is associated with AmFAR and United Way.

The first runner-up in that contest was Terry Brown from KC; the 2nd runner-up was Jared Doak.

The Dixie Belle, as we all know it, will soon be moving into its new location right across the

street from its current site. By mid-April, it will be known as the DB Complex Warehouse (with three floors and 20,000 sq. ft.). Incidentally, owners Johnny Parks and Michael Burns are so excited about their new project, you'd think they were expecting a baby!

Also on Saturday night, at the Ramrod Bar in Boston, another record crowd assembled for the Mr. Boston Leather contest.

Alas, I didn't get all the details; I do know, however, that Roald "Scooter" Wilson (that's right, it's Roald) won the title and will compete at IML in May. By coincidence, his 30th birthday is on Saturday, May 29 — one night before the contest in Chicago! Here's one time he'll certainly know what present he wants.

Dish and dat

A rumor floating through certain parts of town in recent days

had it that just last weekend, Daddy Irwin Kane was here in our lovely city. Don't believe it. Irwin is down in Fort Lauderdale, living the sunny life, and in recent times hasn't ventured to within a thousand miles of our beloved, fogged-in Faghdad. So much drama, so much trauma. So, in other news...

The 1999 edition of International Mr. Drummer is in the planning stages already; the organizing committee met this past Monday night, March 15, to hash out the details. Stay tuned for a full report.

It's Leather Pride Week in Seattle, a week that in fact will be nine days long. Many, many activities are on the agenda, including the Black Party, The Cuff Complex 6th Anniversary, Mr. Washington State Leather, the Emerald Awards, Slave Auction '99 by Vince Edd, and more. For additional info, click on www.onelist.com. ▼

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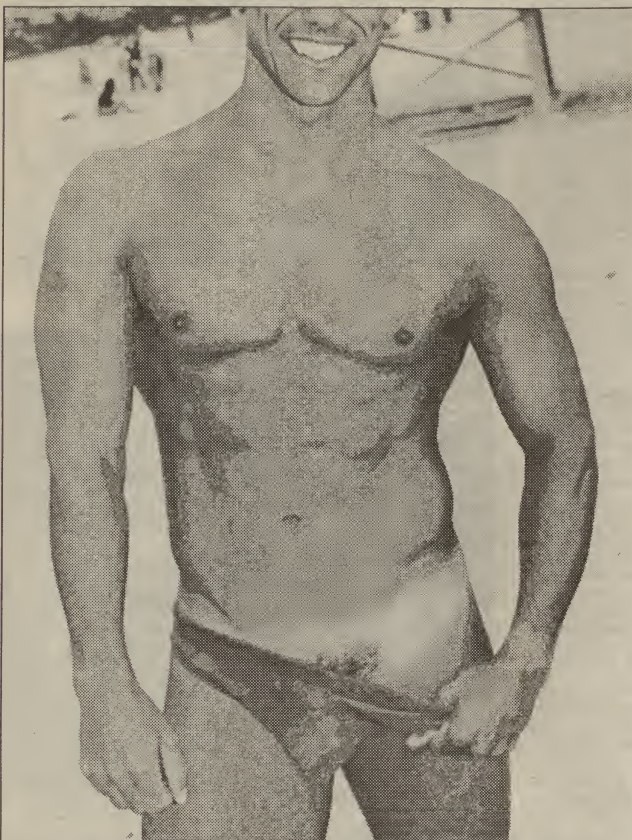
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PARTING GLANCES

Talbert In Berkeley!

You: Nice smile, clean pate. Me: Steven, about to turn into a pumpkin. Rushing off at midnight in Berkeley, Tuesday, 2/16. Wished I'd gotten your number. Give a call. ☎ 6500

Late Snack At Eros

I was your convenient late night snack with the gentle touch. You stopped leaving this bottom wanting more. Call if you'd like to play another time. ☎ 6501

Frank On Muni Fri Feb 19 A.M.

You got on at Montgomery, off at Van Ness. Wanted to read my sweatshirt. Me: slip hair, glasses, goatee, black jacket. You have a great smile. Please call. ☎ 6502

GIEN(N)!

Pleasure dome, 2/14. Sorry about the name thing. I had the bartender that observed me arrested. Dinner? Lonnie ☎ 6503

Post/Kearny Fri 2/19 1:55PM

You: tall, dark hair, mustache; me, sunglasses, mustache, plaid jacket, tan slacks. Exchanged glances, would like to meet you, please call. ☎ 6504

Saturday Afternoon 2/13

Older guy in chair at Love's, you-young man with baseball cap waiting for same stylist. You have a great smile, would like to connect. ☎ 6505

El Rio New Years Eve

Me gray haired & happy that you danced behind me at midnight, but unhappy that although our eyes met many times, we never did. ☎ 6506

Bearded Man @ Movies on 1/15

You sat behind me at Gods & Monsters. We said hello afterwards in the lobby. Would like to connect with you. Call me. ☎ 6507

Rockridge Safeway

Sunday 2-8, 4:30 pm. Exchanged glances, smiles. You: handsome w/dark hair, left in a late model Volvo. Me: Slim, Latin, younger. Let's meet. ☎ 6601

Safeway On Market Mon 2/15 5:30

You: tall, dark hair, mustache; me, sunglasses, mustache, plaid jacket, tan slacks. Exchanged glances, would like to meet you, please call. ☎ 6504

Pretty Guy In Green Jeep 3/2

Me: Walking across Harrison St., sweat pants & t-shirt & glasses. You: Blond/Buzzcut, shirt/slacks. You took a right on ninth, then stopped for delivery? Left hazards blinkers. Please call Christopher. ☎ 6600

Leather Buddies 2/24

You fucked me in full leather on a sling. We talked briefly in lobby, but boyfriend prevented my offering number. Did you say Dave? ☎ 6603

You: Charlie-Met you @ SF

2/16/99 1:00pm Flight to Wash-Dulles. Me Ronnie-on 2:00pm Flight to Wash-BWI. Call me ☎ 6607

Fabiano Vincent

Robert Craig wants to know how to make Ravioli. ☎ 6704

Chris On Collingwood

We met @ The Detour, Sun 2/21. You came to my place in Bernal Hts. We didn't do the phone number thing. Please call me. Dave. ☎ 6605

10 Naked Men

Wed. Feb. 24. You, young handsome in Row 8 center right. I'm older behind you in Row C. We connect and spoke after Show. I'm a nice guy. Would enjoy speaking again. ☎ 6606

Southwest FLT 1455 Vegas To SJ

March 7. Exchanged many glances, spoke briefly. I wanted to talk more. Me across the aisle to Burbank, then in row in front to SJ. ☎ 6700

Paqud On 18th 3/2 Btwn 10 & 11a

You with two guys had cap on, watched me, as I got my coffee and meat outside. I wore leather jacket, Levi's, SF cap. You, looked back leaving. ☎ 6701

Bench & Bar Friday 2/26

I asked, which hand does the wedding ring go on? You, leather coat, two left feet, asked would I remember your number? I didn't, so call me. ☎ 6602

Randy Blobuds Sun 2/28

Gray haired sexbob seeks continuation and escalation of first meeting. I'll buy dinner, desert to be mutually agreed upon. Your choice, Hot man! ☎ 6702

Crossing Castro @ 18th-2/25 Eve

You: Blond, black pants & Jacket w/friend. Me: Brown hair & goatee in gray turtleneck sweater, w/friend. Made eye contact & smiled. Let's meet. ☎ 6604

Costco, San Leandro, Sat. 2/27/99

We: Exchanged looks while shopping. You: Dark hair, maybe Asian, clean cut, shaven, goodlooking. Me: With women friend, dark hair, clean cut. Wanted to talk, only seen you once. ☎ 6703

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Gateway To The Glances Sought

By GWM, youthful 40's, 6', 160lb, blk/green, cute, smart, fun, creative, in love with Hindu, Muslim, and Persian culture - and hoping to go deeper. ☎ 6509

Style And Sophistication

GAM, youthful 46.5", goodlooking, intelligent, sensitive, compassionate gentleman seeks goodlooking WM with similar qualities. Interests include symphony, theater, A&W dance, working out, and traveling abroad. ☎ 6510

Sugar Boy

Sought by GWM 58. You are GWM under 41, established, in great shape, passionate. We like travel, intellect, fine food, the arts, athleticism, family. Both are okay with HIV. ☎ 6524

Uncut Loverman Wanted

GWM seeks warm, loving, and affectionate uncut lover for relationship involving sharing, caring, growth, bonding, and lots of safe sex. I'm 52, 5'8", 175, bmbf, beard, HIV-. ☎ 6511

Latino ISO East Bay Man Only

Attractive, 30's, 5'9", 155, smooth body/face, likes outdoors, healthy life. ISO under 45, any race in good shape, mature honest, healthy, for friendship or possible LTR. S 6512

All American Male ISO Same/GLM

34.6", 210, 5'4", blue, extremely handsome professional. Passionate, sensual spirit; i-veducated mind; athletic body. HIV+. Into biking, outdoors, romance, relationship. You: 30's, professional, financially stable, adventurous, relationship oriented. ☎ 6513

Hunk 6ft 190 33w 49 Neg Gdlik

Fit, muscled, exceptionally well-maintained physically balanced, educated, masculine nice guy with sense of humor. A maverick, never part of gay mainstream looking to connect with 1 right guy. ☎ 6514

GAM Seeks GWM

33 GAM, 5'8", 150#, professional seeking attractive, romantic WM under 45 for friendship and more. I enjoy travel, reading, eating out, nights out occasionally. PIs call. ☎ 6516

Southeast Asians Info Please

This GWM travelling to Southeast Asia soon. I need practical info and possible contacts, will pay back. Call with maybe dinner. ☎ 6610

Hot Daddy Seeks Same

Nice guy masc. Vers. 60, 6'1" 180 hung big ISO same. Sense of humor important. No twerkers. No wimps. ☎ 6517

Tall Big Dicked Athlete Wants

Same for jack-off/exhibition session. I'm lean/muscular, buzz-cut, 8" cock, 6'3", 200lbs. You be close to this too. Turn ins: Jock straps, masculinity, autofellation. ☎ 6518

Rancher Seeks Cowboy

GWM 40's 5'10", brown eyes, black hair, beard seeks GWM 25-40 who enjoys rural life, hard work, honesty N/D, N/A Home body for monogamous LTR. ☎ 6519

Attractive Latino

Goodlooking 33 y/o, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, 5'7", 145#, professional looking for GWM between 26-39 y/o for friendship or more. Me: Like movies, dining out, tennis, hiking, travel. Call me. ☎ 6520

Clean Ass Only

Healthy G8M 55 pos, looking for LT ass eating relationship, must love jockstraps. I eat- you enjoy. ☎ 6521

RUHIV + Black/Latin Concord Top?

HIV + Pittsburgh bottom, 32, blue/brown, 6 foot, 185 pounds, seeks submissively boy/friend-drive-ins, fleamarkets, bar-b-ques. Let's snuggle by the fireplace and playhouse! ☎ 6705

AGGRESSIVE BLACK MEN

GWM 6'165lbs. Would like to be dominated sexually. I have a deep throat and bottom for black dick. I'm all yours anytime you call. ☎ 6523

Tall Dark Handsome Loving Hunk

Passionate GWM LTR. Accomplished, 6'2", 190#, 43, buffed goatee Italian. Fun, exclusive, sincere, HIV+ nonprogressor. Seeks similar 35-45. GWM, professional, relationship oriented for soul-mate. Bodybuilder A+. ☎ 6525

Hunk 6ft 190 33w 49 Neg Gdlik

Fit, muscled, exceptionally well-maintained body, face. Balanced, educated, masculine nice guy with sense of humor. A maverick, never part of gay mainstream looking to connect with 1 right guy. ☎ 6526

Houseboy In Search Of Master

You: Masculine, affectionate but firm, healthy, ready for special master/slave relationship. Me: Masculine educated, GBM, 49, 6'-165#, muscular, poz, great character, healthy, uninhibited with right person, bottom. ☎ 6608

Woody Harrelson Look A Like

GWM young looking 39, 6'1" 175#, brn/brn, NS/ND, gymast build, clean-shaven, HIV-. Publisher Extraordinary, non profit. Volunteer for hiking, hugging, dancing, dining, making out. No sex until third date please. ☎ 6609

Good Looking 22Yr. Old Latin Boy

Seeking a relationship w/ a handsome rich daddy. ☎ 6611

Sugar Boy

Sought by handsome GWM 58. You are GWM under 45, in successful career, great shape, wanting 50-50 relationship. We like family, athleticism, conversation, travel, books. Both ok with HIV. ☎ 6612

For Seniors Only

Now I know that a firm erection is only a bonus. Superfuous only. Two good men in oral embrace. That's the real thing! ☎ 6613

Safe Sex Only

GBM seeks young males 18-25. Clean hygiene. HIV-, first timers, all races, big swollen nipples, tight round butt, muscles or slim bodies. No fats, drugs, or smokers. ☎ 6614

Friends In SF

New to city. YGWM, professional, intellectual, active. I'm looking for friends between 25-35, with interests in arts, history, travel, dining, dancing, movies, christian spirituality. No drugs, occasional drinker. Serious only. ☎ 6615

20 Yr. Old Latin Handsome

Looking for a sugar daddy. ☎ 6616

Millionaire Sks Btm Husband

Intelligent, emotionally electrifying, hndsm, in shape. Man seeks a man 30-45, an ex-scor/model type who wants to dream big and give all, and get all to/from one man, and who knows how to keep a man happy at home. S 6617

Wanted Airplane Pilot

Tall, lean musc. Hung pilot wanted. Excellent amenities. ☎ 6618

Mentor

I'm blond blue eyed man with a great sense of humor and style. I've got a good body and I'm HIV+, happy, successful, and educated. I am looking for the right person with whom I can share and care. ☎ 6619

Is Size An Issue?

Looking for something bigger? Call Jim need more closet space? ☎ 6620

RU HIV + Black/Latin Concord Top?

HIV + Pittsburgh bottom, 32, blue/brown, 6 foot, 185 pounds, seeks submissively boy/friend-drive-ins, fleamarkets, bar-b-ques. Let's snuggle by the fireplace and playhouse! ☎ 6705

Yer Wife/Best Gal Neck & Neck

W/Monica of the stained blue dress as world's worst cocksucker? Not to worry. I suck you off right the first time (you shoot your biggest load ever!) ☎ 6706

Asians Read This

Seeking a horny Asian man under 35, full of cum, who likes to kick back occasionally or complete oral servicing. Same day or night callback. ☎ 6707

East Bay

60yr. 6'2". I love and need big, cut cocks, anyway you want to give it. I love big feet and naked men. No cock-rings please. ☎ 6708

Uncut Friend Wanted

Masculine, mature, GWM, 6', 200#, HIV-neg seeks, sex and a relationship with an uncut man. I like reading, conversation, cuddling and the outdoors. I'm affectionate and open to new activities. S 6709

Let Daddy Nuzzle Your Neck

Rake your body limb to limb; your legs aloft, my body (6'205 55 hairy) pumping: EXPLOSION. You're 27-46, smaller. LTR herb/aroma. Ok ☎ 6710

Master Seeks Slave

30-45yrs. responsible, h/w/t proportionate, with obedient tongue and ass for role-play. Single, companion-oriented only. Fuckin, piss, cum, nipples. Master's dominant, not sadistic. HIV-, 43, 175#, brbl, mustache/goatee. ☎ 6711

Are You Out There

Quiet/conservative G8M 32, 5'9", 155lbs. Not into bar-scene/drugs. Seeking similar under 50 for friendship and more. Salt/pepper hair a plus. ☎ 6712

GWM Seeks TLC

ISO my special warm-hearted tender loving guy. You: GWM or G8M, HIV-, you enjoys movies, theatre & kissing & cuddling. Me: GWM, 40, 5'9", 175lbs. dk auburn/blue. Give me a call if you've got some TLC. ☎ 6713

Good Life

60yo HIV+, handsome GWM, successful, affluent, professional seeks under 48 similar. You are near perfect body, good income, excellent social skills and value intellect, athleticism, travel and family. ☎ 6714

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Why Waste Time Cruising?

Hot Italian with deep throat and huge tool wants to meet hung, smooth guys. No chit chat, no strings, just nut and hit the road. Tell me what you have and what you want. ☎ 6527

Fuckbuddy Wanted

GM seeks man for versatile sex, 25-45, any race, ndns. HIV-. Tall+ +, 7" or more. ☎ 6528

Your Ass, My Face, Spread 'Em

E. Bay, GWM, 55, stocky, seeks in-shape 8M, him, who likes to have a white guy kiss his ass. HIV-, hairy, uncut, ok. ☎ 6529

Studs Who Like To...

Kick back, get exceptional head & rim job, drop a load, look no further. Italian bim, 6'-45, 210#, rugged, goatee & mst. Castro location 12-5am ☎ 6530

Mellow Mouth 4 Manly Members

Cocksucker dad, 47, trim, short beard gives smooth big to black, white hungstuds, my place. Sun-Mon, best. Come pump & unload. Be trim. Sun-Mon, best. Come pumped. ☎ 6531

Older Seeks Younger 18-40 Male

For ongoing sex and friendship. I'm 75, 5'8", 170, fun loving and romantic. Gay, bi, bi-curious ok, since I'll teach you if necessary. Open to LTR. ☎ 6532

East European Or Russian Men

Trim, HIV-neg, under 50, 7" wanted for oral sex. No reciprocation necessary. I am a GWM in my 50's. 5'10", 150#, dark brown hair somewhat shy. ☎ 6533

Ass Massage-Erotic Spanking

Top needs bottom boy. Me: attractive, GWM, 46, 6", 250lbs, husky build, brown hair/ mustache, hairy chest/stomach. You: attractive G8M (white, asian, latin), smooth/moderate body hair, nice buns. ☎ 6534

FOOTLOOSE FUN

WM boomer wants to lick you all over, starting with your feet. Erotic massage too. I'm VGL, trim, healthy, versatile, friendly, sincere. You're a WM, cute, youngish, frisky, clean-shaven, HIV-. ☎ 6535

Passionate!

Secure, proffl seeks fuckbuddy. Me: GWM, 6', 165#, H2/B8M (receding), Healthy HIV+. Trim G8M (white, asian, masc bottom. ISO funloving GWM to share hot times. Must be in shape. Poss LTR. ☎ 6536

Wants J/O Addict Buddies

GWM, 31, thin, totally addicted to J/O, jocks naked for hours, days, wants like-minded buddies for repeated, obsessive, cum-spurring marathon sessions. Under 35, trim, southbay A+. ☎ 6537

BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐
 Seeking Relationship ☐
 Seeking Adventure ☐
 Lesbian ☐
 Fetishes ☐
 Couples ☐
 Others ☐

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Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
 Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Excellent Mouth and Butt
24GWM bldblu, 5'7", 135, 8 cut, hairy chest, legs, butt and very versatile. Looking to suck and swallow, maybe more. Young uncult Latiens, others a plus, but not necessary. ☎ 6539

Suck Daddy's Huge Cock
GWM, 55, 5'11", 165 wants to lay back and get his balls drained. Dad likes to suck a big one too! You to 20-50 in excellent shape, attractive, cauc. ☎ 6540

I Want To Fill Your Hole!
With 8 uncult thick inches on a handsome insaph, blond, 38 yr top. Friendly bottoms with ready holes, for oral or anal action. Let's get it on. ☎ 6621

Seeking Oral Buddy
Masculine beard needs hungry oral buddy for intense sessions for complete pleasuring. I'm sexy, hairy, dominant, verbal, HIV-, clean and know how to feed a hot mouth. ☎ 6622

Hot Studs To Service
Goodlooking GWM 38, 185, 6ft, with short brown hair and mustache, seeks handsome men of all nationalities to suck, and more. Must be 35, and younger, only. ☎ 6623

Hot Submissive Daddy's Boy
Looking for older daddy to make me hot, squirm for more, suck you, get fucked, and be very willing to do anything. U-B dominant, kissable & HIV-. Call. ☎ 6624

Handsome Bottom Man
Mature GWM, HIV+, 5'10, 150, beard/mustache, toned, great touch, hot, smooth, tight and deep for White/Black/Latin/Bald/Bear studs to fill & refill; for the serious total top 30 to 65. ☎ 6625

Cuban Puerto Rican Haitian Men
Trim, HIV-, under 50, 7" cock, for oral sex. No reciprocation necessary. I am a GWM in my 50's, 5'10", 150#, dark brown hair. Enjoy classical music, computers, outdoors. ☎ 6626

Russian River Dude
New to area, GWM, 39, 5'8", 140lbs. Seeking similar guy for fun. ISO any race 20-50, h/wt prop, submissive not tweakers!! Check it out guys. ☎ 6627

In Search Of A Pig Bottom
Nice looking muscular GWM, looking for a submissive pig bottom who loves his hole played with. Must be fit, nice looking and loves to suck cock and party. ☎ 6628

Rub1
Hot East Bay Latin, HIV-, great shape, versatile, mature, nicely hung, white round ass, 5'8", 155, ISO HIV- Bay males. Age, looks, race unimportant. ☎ 6630

Black Hot Dog/Hispanic Buns
You're mature, masculine, HIV- and would enjoy the "raw" back door pounding this black top man delivers, olive skin, husky build, dark hair, moustache big turn-ons!! ☎ 6631

Swallow It Down Real Deep
WM 40's HIV- very masculine dominant verbal seeks very submissive HIV- cock sucker with obedient tongue and hungry deep throat for regular long sessions at your place in SF. ☎ 6632

Asian Seeks A New Buddy
Boysish Asian seeks smooth gym toned "All American" type WM for a safe sex buddy. Blond a plus. ☎ 6633

Warm Sincere Grad Student 37
To service me daytime weekday. Must be slim, smooth, bottom, and want to service hot top 35y/o GWM stud. ☎ 6727

Masculine Italian Top
Hung, healthy, 36, 6'0", 165#, seeks submissive bottom. Boy 20-29 yrs old for hot action and fun times. In shape a must. Uncult/clean shaven/under 5'10" a plus. ☎ 6645

SF Guy ISO
Handsome, horny, white guy, 37, 5'11", 175#, fit, hairy, HIV ISO other hung hot (20-47), tight and clean for j/h, rimming, talking, & possible friendship. ☎ 6715

Cocksucker On Call
5'8", 150, stache, hairy is looking to swallow large cock and drain you nuts on a regular basis. You will be completely drained. ☎ 6716

Tight Little Bottom
GWM mature HIV- 120#, wants to be fit, slow & easy, with let's of ass play. You experienced with small ass. HIV- like to fuck & be sucked. Herb/aroma ok. ☎ 6717

Skinny In Sonoma County?
I love rimming, giving head to very slender guys, 18-35. Available days anywhere in Sonoma Co, Northern Marin, Napa Co. Generous for very cute or hung HIV neg, non-smoking. ☎ 6718

Seeks Tall, With Boots/Loafers
81, BM, 36, 6', 175 attractive, fit, ISO bottom guys, any race, 6'-4", fit, attractive with size 11+ feet for hot footware times. ☎ 6720

Wanted: Passionate Asian!
GWM, 45, 140, 5'7" is seeking a GWM for sessions of hugging, kissing, touching, hot sex and friendship. You! healthy, somewhat fit and passionate between 30-45 in SF. Let's meet. ☎ 6721

Sit On My Face
Well built top, hung big needs, well built WM (20s-30s) with big firm hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 6722

Palo Alto Asian Cocksucker
40, 5'11" 185, between 11pm-11am. Average to well endowed. Your place or designated area. No reciprocation. ☎ 6640

Bottom Seeking Tops
GWM, 45, 6', 155lb, goodlooking bottom, seeks hung tops into long fuck sessions. HIV+ ☎ 6724

Daddy Seeks Asian Boy Toy
GW 40 y/o, 5'10", 175#, Italian, hairycheeked mustache, 8" needs to fuck & rim slim BOY TOY, weekdays, afternoons only. ☎ 6723

Psychic/Paranormal Experiences?
Past life memory? Touch in with the elements? Esoteric spiritual pursuits & more? Me too! Let's talk. ☎ 6644

GW Stud Needs Asian or Latino
To service me daytime weekday. Must be slim, smooth, bottom, and want to service hot top 35y/o GWM stud. ☎ 6727

Masculine Italian Top
Hung, healthy, 36, 6'0", 165#, seeks submissive bottom. Boy 20-29 yrs old for hot action and fun times. In shape a must. Uncult/clean shaven/under 5'10" a plus. ☎ 6645

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GWM, 45, 6', 155lb, goodlooking bottom, seeks hung tops into long fuck sessions. HIV+ ☎ 6724

Buddy Looking For Buddies
Sexy BM in shape, gym toned, smooth, ISO other hot, hung men (20-45), tight, masculine, muscular, gym toned, for discrete j/o session. Aroma/herb ok. ☎ 6725

Beer And Nudity
Straight acting slim guy wants to meet a similar type to drink beer with, play strip poker and other naked games. I'm white 41, with a nice cut dick. ☎ 6726

Uncult Tall Kissers
Seeking lean/skinny uncult dudes 6'2" + into j/o wet kisses, nipple play, other oral pleasures. Any age, race. I'm lanky, horny, unwhit and uncult. ☎ 6728

FETISHES

ISO Preppies
WLM 40, 6', 155lbs, ISO dominant preppy/pleasure exec types, who want to be orally serviced all over. Kink optional. Direct meetings only no games. No S&M, pain, gay scene. ☎ 6541

Wrestle-Play, Anyone?
Let's get out of our heads & into our bodies. Sweat as we playfully struggle to submission wearing jocks, speedos, nothing. I'm lean, muscled, 6'2", 168. You're hard, skinny to muscular, 90lb WM. Any height. ☎ 6542

Are You ISO: 24/7 Total Slave?
GL/GWM 38, 195, 5'11", in S.F. ISO: Handsome, dominant, aggressive, demanding GWM master fit, plus for 24/7 ownership. Training, W/S, B/D, humiliation, public scenes, & cage confinement. Masters desired & crutch to be my universe. No B.S. ☎ 6543

Classic Bondage/SM
GWM 42 5'10", 175lbs br/hr ISO bondage bottoms masochists. Safe flogging, bondage, t/cbt, hot wax, etc. Must be willing to endure discomfort and some pain. ☎ 6544

Huge Nipples For Tit Pig
Let a hot masculine man work your hungry tits with my hands, mouth, pumps and toys. I'm great at what I do. ☎ 6545

Jackoff Showoff? Need An Apt?
Devoted to pleasuring yourself? Love demonstrating your expertise in windows for worshipful neighbors? Need an SF apt? If your Asian or GWM, 30's or 40's, let's talk. ☎ 6546

A Very Specific Fantasy
GWM seeks young, smooth Chinese Boy(hung laid+) who smokes non-filtered cigarettes and is into heavy mutual J/O scenes. Are you out there? ☎ 6547

Seeking Bondage
Bottom seeks top into safe bondage scenes. GWM, 41, 5'8", 155, good looking, athletic. BD, TT, CBT. I also can switch. ☎ 6548

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Lifelong attraction to men's barefeet. Crave mutual barefoot kissing, licking, massaging, caressing, toe wrestling. Roles, fantasies, J/O, E.B. sensual GWM w/oe ring, 5'9", trim, tan, hairy, HIV- seeks buddy. ☎ 6549

ISO Electric Toys
Mature GWM HIV- 120# horny, shaved ball; & 7 cock. Plus love sucking cock. My fantasy, having my balls massage with electric. Fisting me at same time. I am eager and submissive, aroma, ok. ☎ 6550

Achtung, Blond Beasts & Others
Who look like Hitler Youth. If your asshole is a tootsie roll factory, let me watch you satisfy some chocolate addicts. ☎ 6551

Like It Sweaty, Wild & Kinky??
GWM, 30, 215lb. Want nasty scenes with couples seeking third. Husky, cigar smoking, HAIRY daddies with submissive boys. Any race, scene. Blacks A+ Verbal, sleazy! More info? call!! ☎ 6646

Do You Give Good Deep Tounge?
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Insatiable Tits?
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A Little Humiliation
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Pantyhose And Tights Lovers
GWM, 29, 150lbs. ISO other GWM 25-35 of proportional height/weight and good shape) who is into sheer elegance and fun. Smooth legs A+. Please no drag. ☎ 6730

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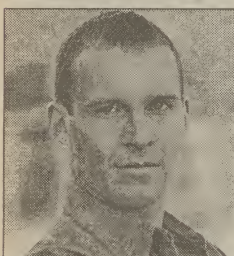
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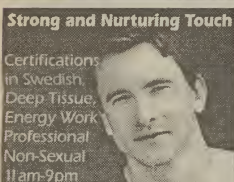
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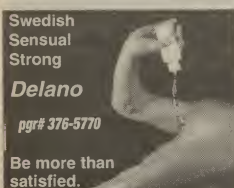
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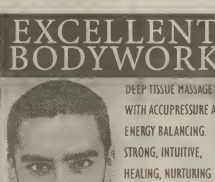
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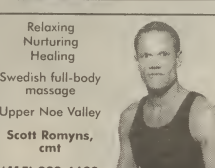
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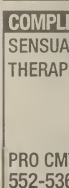
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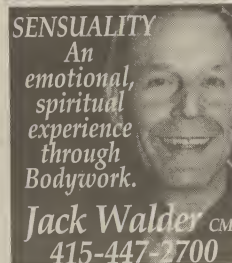
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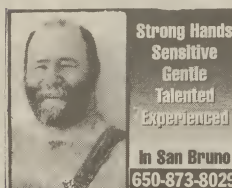
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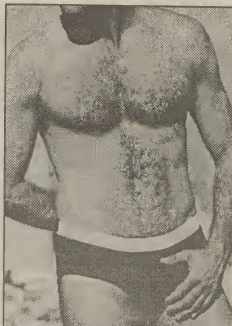
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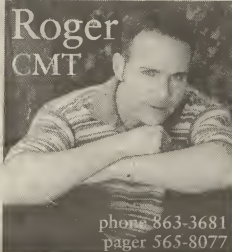
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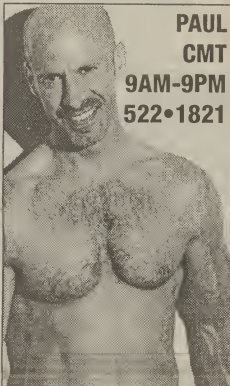
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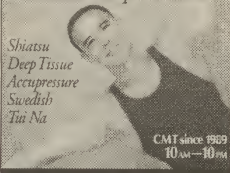
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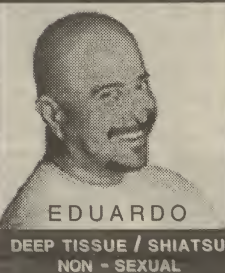


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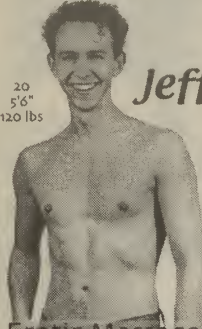
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20
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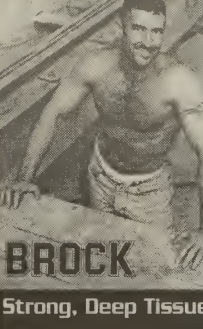
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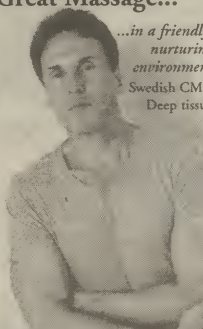
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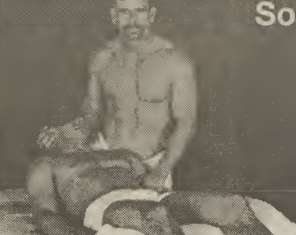
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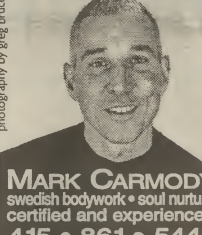
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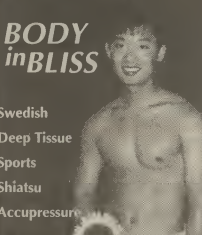

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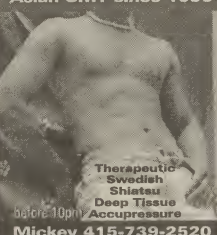
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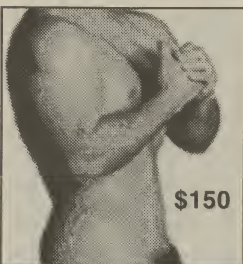
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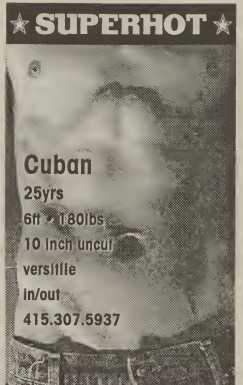
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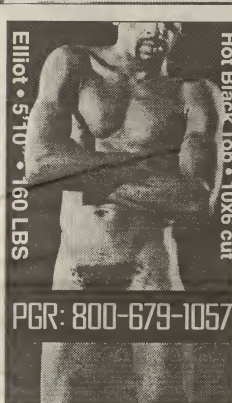
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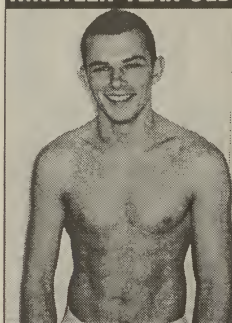
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Bearing 42" Chest, Lean Smooth Abs
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Smooth tone clean cut discreet
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TWO 35 YR OLDS
Attractive discreet uninhibited
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Intelligent and affectionate.
Discreet Bay Area encounters.
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8" CUT 160 OUT
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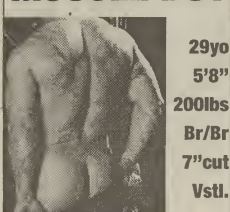
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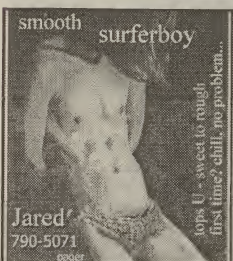
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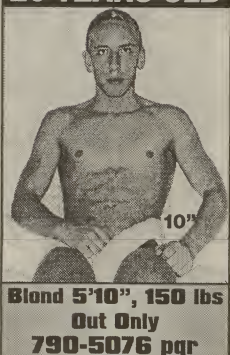
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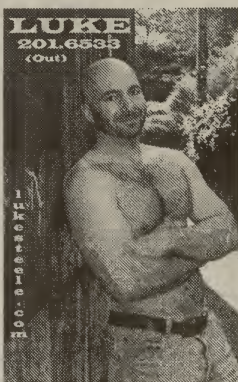
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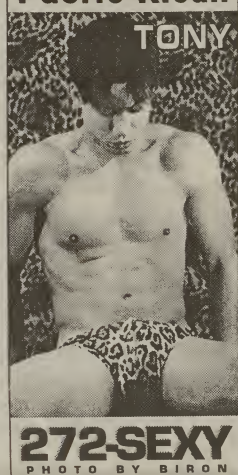


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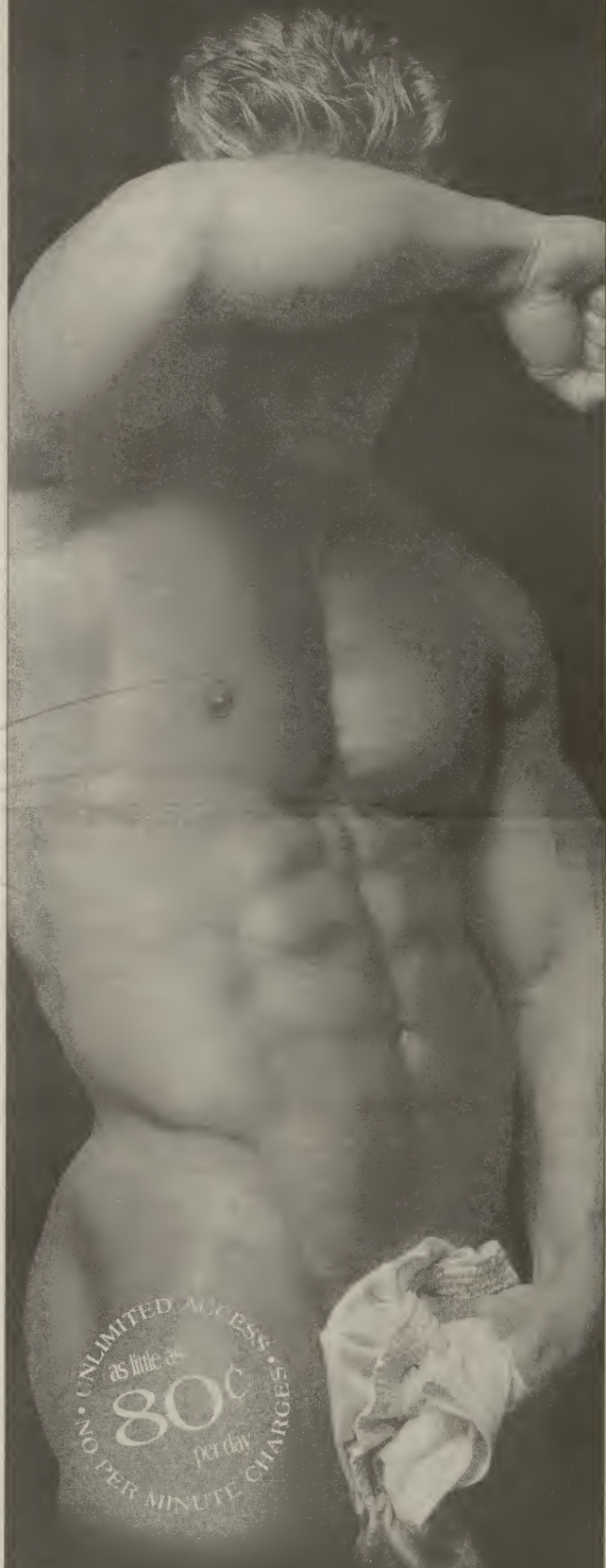
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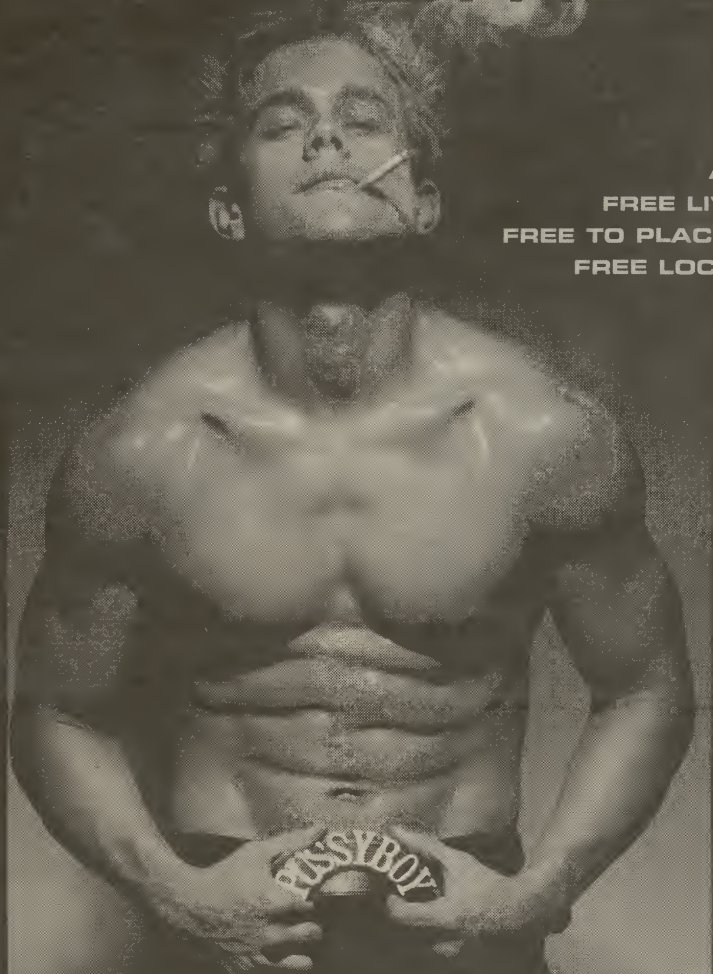
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